

Cultivated plants in a changing climate

*Nativars, Cultivars, and
Ornamentals*

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Master Gardener Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Climate Woes



Our area is experiencing more extremes in weather, including drier summers and wetter winters.

This poses challenges to natural ecosystems as well as those in our lawns and gardens.

Some plants suffered due to the extended period without rain and record high temperatures that we experienced the past few months.

We can choose plants for our gardens that can tolerate the extremes in water availability.

“Plant Right for Your Site”

[Natural Yard Care | https://snohomishcountywa.gov/1097/Natural-Yard-Care](https://snohomishcountywa.gov/1097/Natural-Yard-Care)

Step 2 - Plant Right for Your Site

Reduce maintenance in your garden by selecting pest- and disease-resistant plant varieties that will thrive in your site's unique conditions (sun, shade, moisture, use).

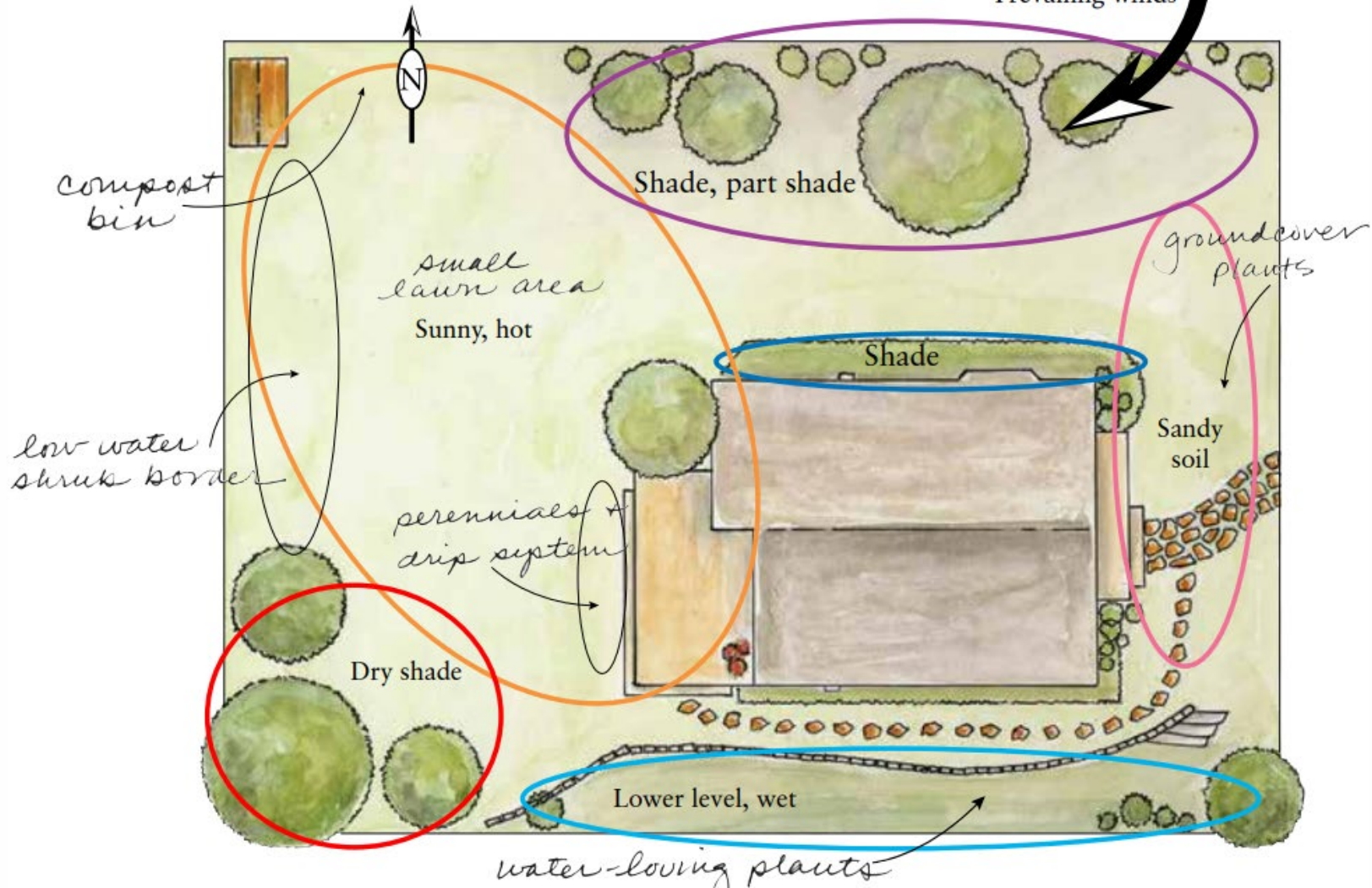
Choosing the Right Plants (PDF)

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7255/Choosing-the-Right-Plants>

The Plant List (PDF)

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7262/The-Plant-List>

Prevailing winds



Compost bin

small lawn area
Sunny, hot

Shade, part shade

Shade

groundcover plants

Sandy soil

low water shrub border

perennials drip system

Dry shade

Lower level, wet

water-loving plants

Wet Winter/Dry Summer Plants

The following plants are some of the best at faring well in very wet winter soils—often due to slow drainage or constant seepage—and dry summer soils. Plants with an asterisk* can even handle standing water; all will thrive with good summer drainage. *Refer to page 12 for additional resources to help you find plants that match your garden's conditions.*

Trees

			Sun	Partial Shade	Shade	Deciduous ↑ Evergreen ↓	Mature Tree Heights small up to 30 feet tall medium 30 to 70 feet tall large more than 70 feet tall
● <i>Acer circinatum</i>	VINE MAPLE	N	☀	☀	☁	🌲	small; great fall color
● <i>Betula albosinensis</i> var. <i>septentrionalis</i>	CHINESE RED BIRCH		☀	☀		🌲	medium
● <i>Betula nigra</i>	RIVER BIRCH		☀	☀		🌲	large
● <i>Betula utilis</i> var. <i>jacquemontii</i>	HIMALAYAN WHITE BIRCH		☀	☀		🌲	medium; gorgeous bark
● <i>Crataegus laevigata</i> and cultivars	ENGLISH HAWTHORN		☀	☀		🌲	small
● <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	AMERICAN SWEET GUM		☀	☀		🌲	large
● <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i> *	DAWN REDWOOD		☀	☀		🌲	large; deciduous conifer
● <i>Pinus contorta</i> var. <i>contorta</i>	SHORE PINE	N	☀			🌲	large
● <i>Quercus palustris</i>	PIN OAK		☀			🌲	large



Betula albosinensis
var. *septentrionalis*

Shrubs

<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	RED CHOKEBERRY		☀	☀	⬆	autumn berries
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	BLACK CHOKEBERRY		☀	☀	⬆	autumn berries
<i>Aronia</i> × <i>prunifolia</i>	PURPLE CHOKEBERRY		☀	☀	⬆	autumn berries
● <i>Berberis darwinii</i>	DARWIN'S BARBERRY		☀	☀	▲	dense habit
● <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> and cultivars	JAPANESE BARBERRY		☀	☀	⬆	'Rose Glow' is a GPP
● <i>Cornus alba</i> and cultivars*	REDTWIG DOGWOOD		☀	☀	⬆	'Elegantissima' is a GPP
● <i>Cornus stolonifera</i> and cultivars*	RED OSIER DOGWOOD	N	☀	☀	⬆	twig color best in sun
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	SALAL	N	☀	☀	▲	forms a thicket
● <i>Myrica californica</i>	CALIFORNIA WAX MYRTLE	N	☀	☀	▲	birds like the berries
● <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	PURPLELEAF NINEBARK		☀		⬆	'Diabolo' is a GPP
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	SHRUBBY CINQUEFOIL		☀		⬆	long bloomtime
● <i>Sambucus nigra</i> and cultivars	BLACK ELDERBERRY		☀	☀	⬆	'Gerda' is a GPP
<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	DOUGLAS'S SPIREA	N	☀		⬆	vigorous; forms a thicket
<i>Spiraea</i> × <i>vanhouttei</i>	BRIDAL WREATH SPIREA		☀		⬆	pretty white flowers
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	SNOWBERRY	N	☀	☀	⬆	white berries; forms a thicket



Berberis darwinii

● = a Great Plant Picks selection
 N = Pacific Northwest Native Plant

Perennials, Grasses and More

		Sun	Partial S	Shade	Decid Evergr	
● <i>Acorus gramineus</i> 'Ogon'*	GOLD VARIEGATED SWEETFLAG	☀	☀	☁	▲	semi-evergreen; brighter in sun
● <i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	WOOD ANEMONE	☀	☀	☁	▲	dormant in summer
	<i>Bergenia</i> species and hybrids	☀	☀	☁	▲	bold leaves
● <i>Blechnum penna-marina</i>	ALPINE WATER FERN	☀	☀	☁	▲	in sun, needs more water
● <i>Blechnum spicant</i>	DEER FERN	N	☀	☁	▲	in sun, needs more water
● <i>Carex</i> 'Ice Dance'*	VARIEGATED SEDGE	☀	☀	☁	▲	vigorous groundcover
● <i>Carex oshimensis</i> 'Evergold'*	VARIEGATED JAPANESE SEDGE	☀	☀	☁	▲	
	<i>Erythronium revolutum</i>		☀		▲	dormant in summer
● <i>Erythronium</i> 'Pagoda'	YELLOW FAWN LILY		☀		▲	dormant in summer
	<i>Hemerocallis</i> cultivars	☀			▲	needs water until flower buds develop
	<i>Limnanthes douglasii</i>	☀			▲	spreading, self-seeding; dormant in summer
	<i>Luzula nivea</i>	☀	☀		▲	unusual texture
	<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>		☀	☁	▲	best with occasional summer water



Acorus gramineus
'Ogon'

● <i>Osmunda regalis</i> and cultivars*	ROYAL FERN			☁	▲	best with occasional summer water	
● <i>Polystichum munitum</i>	WESTERN SWORD FERN	N	☀	☀	☁	▲	best with occasional summer water
● <i>Polystichum polyblepharum</i>	JAPANESE TASSEL FERN			☁	▲	best with occasional summer water	
● <i>Polystichum setiferum</i> Divisilobum Group and others	SOFT SHIELD FERN			☀	☁	▲	best with occasional summer water
● <i>Waldsteinia ternata</i>	BARREN STRAWBERRY	☀	☀	☁	▲	semi-evergreen; out-competes many weeds	



Polystichum munitum

Helpful Lists

- Foliage Fashion
- All Great Plant Picks
- Containers
- Deer Resistant Plants
- Drought Tolerant Plants**
- Fragrant Plants
- Miscellaneous Lists
- Plants for a Better Planet
- Natives - Pacific Northwest
- Pollinator Plants
- Seasonal Plantings
- Shade Gardening
- Small Gardens

Browse the GPP Plant Lists

Select a list or use one of the search options above.

DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS

Watering Guidelines and Definitions

DROUGHT TOLERANT IN SUN:

- All Drought Tolerant Plants for Sun
- Bulbs
- Conifers
- Grasses
- Perennials
- Shrubs
- Trees
- Vines

DROUGHT TOLERANT IN SHADE:

- All Drought Tolerant Plants for Shade
- Bulbs
- Conifers
- Perennials
- Shrubs
- Trees
- Vines

Great Plant Picks is a Northwest based nonprofit educational program from the Elizabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden. For more information, go to www.greatplantpicks.org.

POLLINATOR PLANTS	DROUGHT TOLERANT	NATIVE
<small>Black-eyed Susan®</small> Rudbeckia hirta 'Goldstrahl'	<small>Orange Prince™</small> Rosa 'Orange Prince'	<small>Autumn Blaze™</small> Acer 'Autumn Blaze'
<small>White Starburst™</small> Rosa 'White Starburst'	<small>Purple Starburst™</small> Rosa 'Purple Starburst'	<small>Red Raspberry</small> Rubus 'Red Raspberry'
<small>White Starburst™</small> Rosa 'White Starburst'	<small>Purple Starburst™</small> Rosa 'Purple Starburst'	<small>Mountain Laurel</small> Magnolia 'Mountain Laurel'
<small>Red Starburst™</small> Rosa 'Red Starburst'	<small>Orange Prince™</small> Rosa 'Orange Prince'	<small>Pink Starburst™</small> Rosa 'Pink Starburst'
<small>Purple Starburst™</small> Rosa 'Purple Starburst'	<small>Green Starburst™</small> Rosa 'Green Starburst'	<small>White Starburst™</small> Rosa 'White Starburst'
<small>White Starburst™</small> Rosa 'White Starburst'	<small>Yellow Starburst™</small> Rosa 'Yellow Starburst'	<small>Blue Starburst™</small> Rosa 'Blue Starburst'
<small>Purple Starburst™</small> Rosa 'Purple Starburst'	<small>Green Starburst™</small> Rosa 'Green Starburst'	<small>White Starburst™</small> Rosa 'White Starburst'
<small>White Starburst™</small> Rosa 'White Starburst'	<small>Yellow Starburst™</small> Rosa 'Yellow Starburst'	<small>Blue Starburst™</small> Rosa 'Blue Starburst'

Cultivated Plants

“Nativars”

“Cultivars”

“Ornamentals”

Manzanita



Arctostaphylos x densiflora 'Howard McMinn' in Paul Bonine's garden. Photo by Paul Bonine.

From MG Karen Panek:

Arctostaphylos, or Manzanita, are native to Oregon and California- there are so many beautiful cultivars, tall, shrubby, small... Oregon State has a test project looking for nice cultivars. One of my favorites is "Louis Edmonds."

They are mostly evergreen, have beautiful flowers and fruit, and put up with dry conditions - the word is "Very Well Drained " and poor soils. In fact, they need to be dry.

<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/arctostaphylos-manzanita>

<https://xeraplants.com/arctostaphylos/>

As far as I am concerned, this is a landscape plant for the future, dryer, Puget Sound.

More Examples

From MG Mandy Carter:

Thuja plicata cultivars are so cool/diverse/weird! There are more than I listed here, and you would never in a million years guess they are cultivars of our Western Red Cedar. (Whipcord, Gruene Kugel, Zebrina, Forever Goldie, etc)

My other would be the lady fern *Athyrium filix-femina* cultivars, look at these as well - they are super fun. (Frizelliae, Victoria, Lady in Red)



<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/thuja-plicata-grune-kugel>



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athyrium#/media/File:Athyrium_filix-femina0.jpg

<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> 'Vancouver Jade'	Vancouver Jade Kinnikinnick
<i>Armeria maritima</i> 'Nifty Thrifty'	Variagated Sea Thrift
<i>Armeria maritima</i> 'Rubrifolia'	Red-leaved Sea Thrift
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i> 'Sylvester'	Sylvester Goat's Beard
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> 'Frizelliae'	Tatting Fern
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> 'Lady in Red'	Lady in Red Fern
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> 'Victoria'	Victoria Lady Fern
<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i> 'Maupin Glow'	Maupin Glow Incense Cedar
<i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Flaverimea'	Yellow Twig Dogwood
<i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Kelsey'	Kelsey Dogwood
<i>Camissia quamash</i> 'Blue Melody'	Blue Melody Camas
<i>Dicentra formosa</i> 'Aurora'	Aurora Bleeding Heart
<i>Dicentra formosa</i> 'Bacchanal'	Bacchanal Bleeding Heart
<i>Dicentra formosa</i> 'King of Hearts'	King of Hearts Bleeding Heart
<i>Dicentra formosa</i> 'Langtrees'	Langtrees Bleeding Heart
<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> 'Lipstick'	Lipstick Coastal Strawberry
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i> 'Berry Cascade'	Berry Cascade Wintergreen
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i> 'Peppermint Pearl'	Peppermint Pearl Wintergreen
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i> 'Winter Splash'	Gaultheria Winter Splash
<i>Heuchera micrantha</i> 'Palace Purple'	Palace Purple Coral Bells
<i>Picea sitchensis</i> 'Papoose'	Papoose Sitka Spruce
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> 'King Edward VII'	King Edward VII Red Flower
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> 'White Icicle'	White Icicle Flowering Currant
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> 'Elk River Red'	Elk River Red Flowering Current
<i>Rhus thyphina</i> 'Tiger Eyes'	Tiger Eyes Sumac
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> 'Lemony Lace'	Lemony Lace Golden Elderberry
<i>Tolmiea menziesii</i> 'Cool Gold'	Cool Gold Piggyback Plant
<i>Thuja plicata</i> 'Forever Goldie'	Thuja Forever Goldie
<i>Thuja plicata</i> 'Gruene Kugel'	Dwarf Western Red Cedar
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i> 'Thoresen's Weeping'	Thoresen's Weeping Hemlock
<i>Tsuga mertensiana</i> 'Elizabeth'	Elizabeth Mountain Hemlock
<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i> 'Scarlet Ovation'	Scarlet Ovation Evergreen Huckleberry

Questions?

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