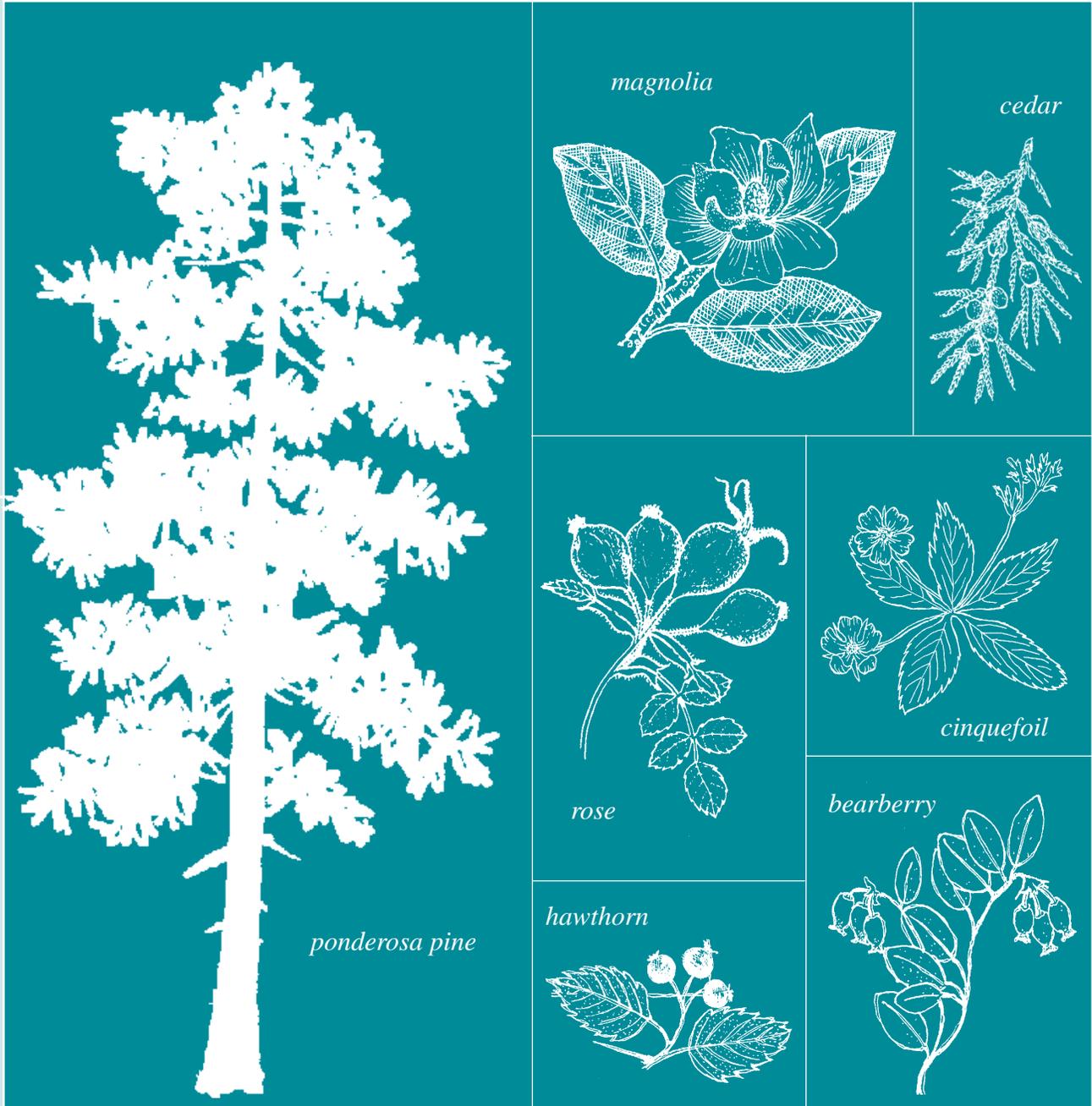


# PLANT MATERIALS FOR LANDSCAPING

A LIST OF PLANTS FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

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# PLANT MATERIALS FOR LANDSCAPING

## A LIST OF PLANTS FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

This publication will help you select woody plant materials for landscaping. It contains lists of nearly 400 of the more than 1,000 plants grown in the Pacific Northwest.

The plants are divided into several height groups, representing the average height attained within a reasonable time (3 to 10 years) under average growing conditions. This is the period of time of interest to most homeowners. Under optimum conditions, or after many years, some plants will exceed the height listed. For each plant, information also is given on hardiness zone and sun or shade requirements.

The cultivars listed were chosen for disease and insect resistance. Cultivars that frequently experience serious pest problems are not included on the lists.

### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

When choosing a plant, the first question to ask yourself is "How large a plant do I need?" Thus, the lists in this publication are organized by height groups. Once you find the right height group, consider these factors:

- Where will the plant be located—in sun or shade?
- In which climate zone will it be planted?
- What shape or manner of growth do I want?
- What special features am I looking for?

Choose a plant that matches your site's growing conditions and also meets your other desires, such as for a certain color of flower or a particular manner of growth.

### GENERAL GROWING CONSIDERATIONS



The best advice in plant selection is to find the right plant for the right place. Plant hardiness zones are a starting point since they are based on winter temperatures. In determining where a plant will survive, however, you need to consider other factors as well, including frost occurrence, seasonal rainfall distribution, humidity, soil characteristics, water availability, and duration and intensity of sunlight. These factors bear little relationship to average winter temperatures.

Every plant tolerates a range of conditions for each of these factors. The combined effects of all of them determine true plant adaptability.

Before selecting a plant, consider your site and determine what, if any, environmental conditions exist that might cause problems for the plant. Analyze the site. What elements will the plant be exposed to (full sun, shade, wind, reflected heat)? What are the soil conditions (fertile or poor, high or low pH, depth of soil, drainage)? Select carefully to ensure that the plant will live and thrive in your yard.

Some plants, such as rhododendrons and azaleas, prefer acid soils (low pH) and may require periodic soil amendments if your soil normally is alkaline or near neutral. Most other woody plants grow well across a wide range of soil pH, from acid to alkaline.

### Plant hardiness zones

Plant hardiness zones depict minimum winter temperatures. (See map on page 4.) A plant species that flourishes in one part of a given zone is likely to be adaptable in other parts of the same zone or in a warmer zone.

Some gardeners question a zone rating when a plant fails to survive its first winter. A single test, however, rarely is reliable. A small, young plant may be tender, but may become quite hardy as it grows older. Other conditions also may affect the degree of hardiness. Furthermore, no single winter is quite average; some are more severe than others in suddenness of freezing or in severity of frost.

Just because a plant may survive in a given zone does not necessarily mean it should be recommended for planting there. *Abelia grandiflora*, for example, usually survives as a low-growing, winter-retarded specimen in the colder areas of zone 6 or even in zone 5. It develops and flowers normally, however, in zone 7. This species, therefore, is properly recommended only for zones 7 and above.

There are many ways to develop microclimates that allow a tender plant to grow in an otherwise inhospitable zone. For example, you can control soil fertility and water availability to some extent. Other factors, such as temperature, are largely beyond your control, but do have predictable yearly averages. Frost dates, length of growing season, and minimum winter temperatures are among the least readily controlled of the major factors that govern the adaptability of plants.

### Frost occurrence

Average first and last frost days have been calculated for each plant hardiness zone. These dates give gardeners an indication of when to expect the first frost of the fall as well as the last frost of winter.

However, air temperature and movement also are important factors in frost occurrence and may create microclimates within your garden. Because warm air rises and cold air sinks, cool air tends to accumulate in low spots and in areas with minimal air movement, thereby creating frost

pockets. Species that are marginally hardy in a given zone should not be planted in frost pockets.

### Seasonal rainfall

Total average rainfall has a significant effect on plant growth and development, and the distribution of that rainfall is equally important. Some areas receive substantial rainfall, but most of it does not occur during the growing season. Where summers are dry, plants may need supplemental water in order to survive. Using species that need little water is one strategy to reduce the amount you need to irrigate.

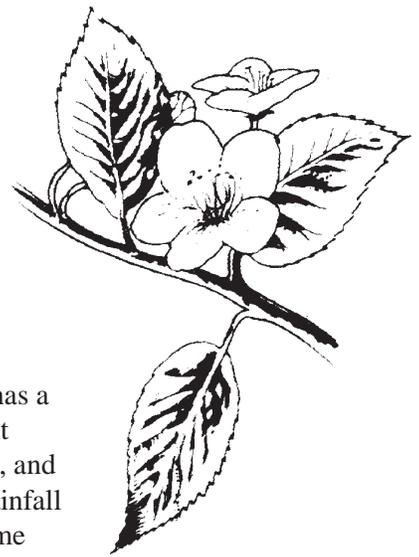
### Soil characteristics

Soil is a major factor in determining which plants will thrive in your garden. The ideal garden soil is loam. It is a light crumbly mixture of approximately equal parts of sand, silt, and clay particles, and consists of at least 4 percent organic matter. Organic matter is important because it holds water, nutrients, and air, and is loose enough for roots to penetrate. Garden soils can be altered; however, it is important to complete a soil test first to determine what improvements your soil needs.

### Sun exposure

The angle of the sun in relation to the earth varies from summer to winter. The sun's angle not only affects day length but also the shadows that are created in the garden. These shadows determine the amount of sun plants receive and may have a significant effect on their growth.

Additionally, slopes that face south or southwest get more heat during the day than those that face north or northeast. Southern exposure slopes dry out more quickly and require supplemental water. Taking advantage of different exposures in the landscape may extend your growing season.



## Heat zones

The tolerance of a plant to the expected cold temperatures in an area long has been used as a measure of its ability to survive in that area. Scientists have begun listing another, equally important factor, that of how a plant performs in the summer heat of an area. The American Horticulture Society's Plant Heat Zone Map (page 5) indicates the longest periods of heat that can be expected in all regions of the United States.

Twelve different zones are defined by their average number of days above 86°F (30°C), the level at which

plants may experience cell damage. Plant heat zones in the Pacific Northwest range from zone 1 in the coastal areas, where there usually is fewer than 1 day per year above 86°F, to zone 8 along the Snake River, where there may be 90 to 120 days above 86°F, and tender plants need some form of care and protection (e.g., shade, windbreaks, or irrigation) to grow properly.

The gardener's job is one of matching plants with the climate. You will find that many factors (some of which we use in developing microclimates to fit a tender plant selection) can allow a plant to live outside its theoretical heat zone.

# S MALL PLANTS

TO 18 INCHES HIGH



*St. Johnswort*

Botanical name	Common name	Growth	Zone	Flowers	Exposure	Remarks
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Carpet bugle	Spreading, stoloniferous	5–9	Blue, April–May	Sun Part sun Shade	Herbaceous plant with persistent leaves; effective year-round groundcover. Varieties have white flowers, bronze or variegated leaves. Grows in full sun or shade, but does best in partial shade. Plant 18 inches apart.
<i>Alyssum saxatile</i>	Goldentuft alyssum	Spreading	4–9	Yellow, April–May	Sun	Herbaceous plant for edging, walls, or rocks, with a 2- to 3-foot spread. Cut back about one-half after blooming.
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Dwarf bog rosemary	Spreading	All	Pink, April–May	Sun Part sun	Small shrub; blue-gray-green foliage. Very good in rock gardens.
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinnikinnick (Bearberry)	Trailing	4–9	Pink, March–April	Sun Part sun	Wide-spreading evergreen groundcover. Bright red berries. Plant 18–27 inches apart for quick cover. Full sun on dry banks or in partial shade. Will hang over walls. Sandy or gravelly soil is best.
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Sea pink	Mound	4–9	Various	Sun Part sun	Green mounds, to 12 inches across and 4–6 inches high. Spring flowers on 8- to 10-inch stalks. Some varieties rebloom if spent flowers are removed.
<i>Artemisia schmidtiana</i> ‘Nana’	Silvermound	Mound	4–9	See remarks	Sun	Forms a mound 8–10 inches high and a foot or more broad. Silvery gray foliage. Thrives in full sun in well-drained, dry soil. Flowers are less important than the foliage.
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> ( <i>Saxifraga cordifolia</i> )	Heartleaf bergenia	Clump	5–9	Rose pink, Jan–April	Sun Part sun	Herbaceous plant with persistent leaves 4–6 inches across. Divide and reset if clumps become too thick. Flower stalks to 20 inches high.
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> ‘Suffruticosa’	Edging boxwood	Rounded, dense	6–9	Insignificant	Sun Part sun	Slow-growing broadleaf evergreen. Grows to 3 feet. Most frequently seen as clipped edging plant from 6–18 inches high.

# TREES

30–50 FEET HIGH



*European mountain ash*

Botanical name	Common name	Growth	Zone	Flowers	Exposure	Remarks
<i>Acacia decurrens</i>	Greenwattle acacia	Oval	8–9	Yellow, Feb–March	Sun	Fine-textured, light green foliage with bright yellow, fragrant flowers. In Oregon, hardy from Roseburg to Coos Bay south.
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i> 'Rosea'	Pink silktree	Spreading	7–9	Pink, June–Aug	Sun	Fine texture of dark green leaves and bloom makes this tree popular. Tender in zone 7.
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Black alder	Broad, pyramidal	4–9		Sun Part sun Shade	A fast-growing tree for tough sites. Can grow in infertile soil and tolerates extremely wet sites.
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Fastigiata'	Pyramidal European hornbeam	Broad, pyramidal	5–9		Sun	Deciduous tree. Very formal appearance. Tolerates heat and drought.
<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	Common catalpa	Oval	5–9	White, June–July	Sun Part sun	Coarse-textured tree. May reach 50 feet high. Grows in most soils with moderate moisture.
<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	Katsura tree	Upright, pyramidal	5–9	Insignificant	Sun Part sun	Deciduous tree. Foliage is heart-shaped, bluish green; yellow to orange in fall.
<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	American yellowwood	Oval to V-shaped	5–9	White, June	Sun	Flowers are borne on long, pendulous panicles.
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> 'Patmore'	Patmore ash	Oval	3–9		Sun	Dark green, glossy foliage. Extremely hardy. Seedless, deciduous. Good for urban sites. Many varieties available.
<i>Malus</i> 'Dolgo'	Dolgo flowering crabapple	Upright, spreading	3–9	White, April–May	Sun	Deciduous. White flowers are followed by red 1½-inch edible fruit.
<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Koster'	Koster blue Colorado spruce	Pyramidal	4–9		Sun	Slow-growing but persistent tree. Foliage is light silvery green. Many varieties available.