

Plant Right

Plants grown in the right conditions thrive without a lot of care, water, fertilizer, or pesticides. In the wrong situation, plants will struggle no matter how much attention you give them. Follow these simple steps to choose plants that are well adapted to your garden. You will enjoy your garden more and save time and money for years to come.

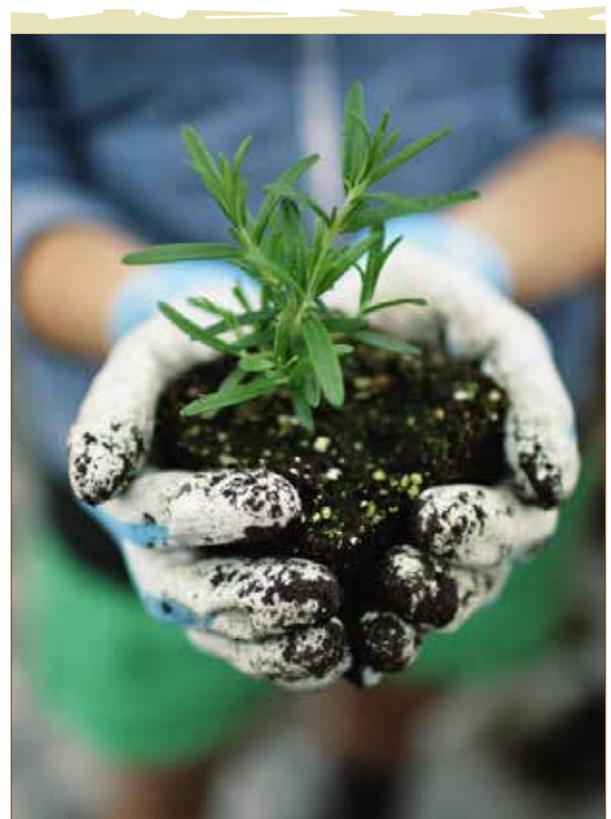
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- 🌱 **Choose plants that will thrive in each location.**
- 🌱 **Plant right for a good start.**

Know Your Site Conditions

Many plants are particular about the amount of sun, fertility, water, and heat they receive. Before selecting plants for your garden, use the *Garden Design* and *Soil* guides to help identify these important conditions in your garden and figure out which plants can help you create the garden areas you want.

Choose Plants That Will Thrive in Each Location

Picking the right plant requires matching each plant's needs with what you and your garden can provide. To get you started, the chart inside this guide includes



some easy-to-grow plants that thrive in varied soils with little care or water once established, as long as they get the proper amount of sunlight.

Make a list of your own plant needs and garden desires, then check out the *Resources* at the end of this guide to find plants that will thrive for your garden.

Plant Right for a Good Start

Whatever you choose to plant will grow better with proper soil preparation and planting methods. Start with these simple steps to grow healthy plants for years to come.

Start With Healthy Soil

Loosen soil throughout planting beds at least 10 to 12 inches deep. Cultivate a 4 foot or larger circle for each shrub or tree planted in lawns or established planting beds.

Mix in compost throughout the planting area—not just in the planting hole. Add 2-3 inches in planting beds and 1-2 inches in lawn areas.

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Make a hole in the amended soil large enough to spread roots.

Form a firm mound at the bottom of the planting hole. The top of the root ball should be at the soil surface.

Untangle circling or matted roots, and spread them around the hole.

Fill in with the soil removed from the planting hole, and water thoroughly.

Mulch and Water Wisely

Spread mulch over entire planting bed. Keep mulch a few inches away from plant stems. See the *Mulch* guide for more tips.

Water until plants are established. Even most "drought tolerant" plants need irrigation their first few summers. See the *Watering* guide to learn the most efficient methods.

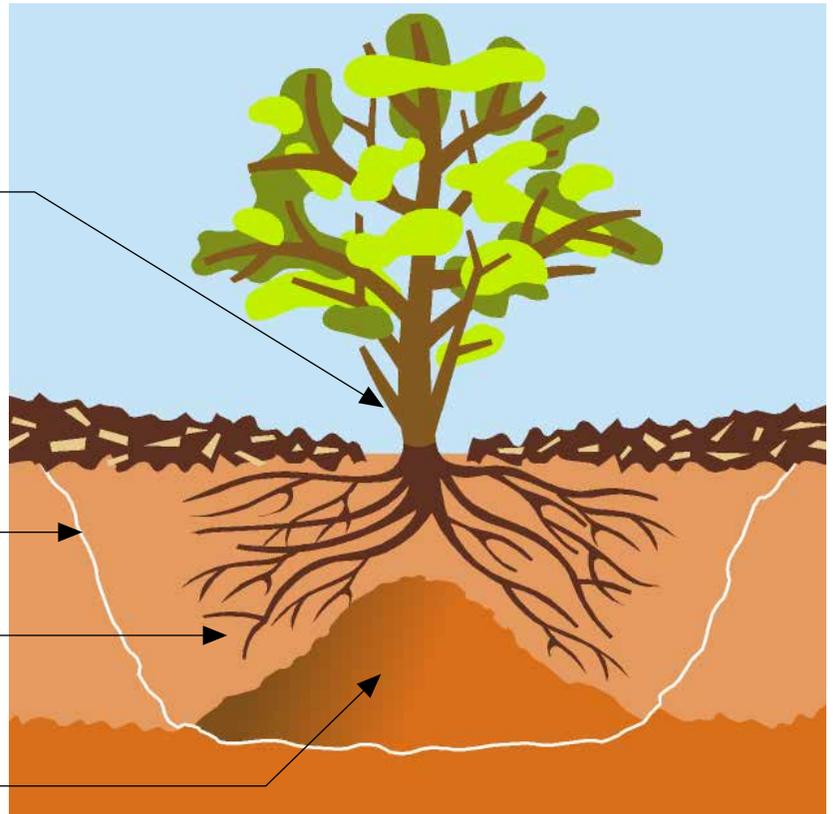
PLACE PLANT
AT THE LEVEL IT WAS
GROWING IN THE POT
OR SLIGHTLY HIGHER

MULCH LAYER

WIDE PLANTING HOLE
IN AMENDED SOIL

SPREAD ROOTS OVER MOUND

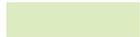
FIRM MOUND OF SUBSOIL

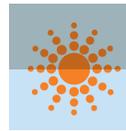


LIST OF PLANTS Smart choices for beauty, easy care, fewer chemicals, and lower water use.
For more options, see the *Resources* that follow.



Full Sun Direct sun for several hours through the middle of the day.

 = evergreen



Part Shade A few hours of direct sun each day, but shaded midday or afternoon. Dappled sunlight or open areas north of tall evergreens.

Moderate to Tall Trees
(25'+)

<i>Acer griseum</i>	<i>Cornus kousa</i>
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	<i>Parrotia persica</i>
<i>Picea omorika</i>	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
<i>Pinus contorta</i>	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> 'Frisia'

Small Trees
(Under 20')

<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i> 'Autumn Brilliance'	<i>Acer circinatum</i>
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> 'Forest Pansy'
<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> 'Argentea'
<i>Malus</i> 'Adirondack'	<i>Cornus mas</i>
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	<i>Morella californica</i>

Large Shrubs
(8' +)

<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Julia Phelps'	<i>Elaeagnus x ebbingei</i> 'Gilt Edge'
<i>Cotinus coggygia</i> 'Royal Purple'	<i>Mahonia x media</i> 'Winter Sun'
<i>Cotoneaster lacteus</i>	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> 'King Edward VII'
<i>Berberis thunbergii f. atropurpurea</i> 'Rose Glow'	<i>Sambucus nigra f. porphyrophylla</i> 'Gerda' BLACK BEAUTY
<i>Weigela florida</i> 'Variegata'	<i>Viburnum tinus</i> 'Spring Bouquet'

Medium Shrubs (3-6')

<i>Daphne x transatlantica</i> 'Summer Ice'	<i>Daphne odora</i> 'Aureomarginata'
<i>Brachyglottis greyi</i>	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Tuscan Blue'	<i>Spiraea japonica</i> 'Walbuma' MAGIC CARPET
<i>Osmanthus delavayi</i>	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
<i>Berberis thunbergii f. atropurpurea</i> 'Golden Ring'	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>

Low Shrubs
(3' and under)

<i>Berberis microphylla</i> 'Pygmaea'	<i>Ilex crenata</i> 'Golden Gem'
<i>Berberis thunbergii f. atropurpurea</i> 'Atropurpurea Nana'	<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> cultivars	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> 'Mt Vernon'
<i>Erica x darleyensis</i> 'Kramer's Rote'	<i>Sarcococca hookeriana var. humilis</i>
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	<i>Spiraea japonica</i> 'Goldflame'

Ground Covers and Perennials
(12" +)

<i>Nepeta</i> 'Dropmore'	<i>Epimedium x rubrum</i>
<i>Erica carnea</i> cultivars	<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>
<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>	<i>Helleborus</i> cultivars
<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	<i>Heuchera</i> cultivars
<i>Geranium</i> cultivars	<i>Carex testacea</i>
<i>Leptinella squalida</i> 'Platt's Black'	<i>Carex oshimensis</i> 'Evergold'

Visit the Bellevue Botanical Garden Collection Search at <http://bbgcollection.bellevuewa.gov> for photos and more information on these plants and others found in the garden.



Mahonia x media 'Winter Sun'



RESOURCES

Books

- *Gardening with Native Plants*, by Arthur K. Kruckeberg
- *Landscaping for Wildlife*, by Russell Link
- *Perennials, The Gardener's Reference*, by Susan Carter, Carrie Becker, and Bob Lilly
- *Plants for the Pacific Northwest Coast*, by Jim Pojar and Andy Mckinnon
- *Sunset Western Garden Book*, Kathleen Norris, ed.; Sunset Publishing Corp.
- *The Pacific Northwest Gardener's Book of Lists*, by Ray and Jan Neilan
- *Trees and Shrubs for Pacific Northwest Gardens*, by John and Carol Grant

Web Sites

- **Bellevue Botanical Garden Collection Search**
<http://bbgcollection.bellevuewa.gov>
- **Great Plant Picks**
www.greatplantpicks.org
- **King County Native Plant Guide**
<https://green.kingcounty.gov/GoNative/index.aspx>
- **Washington Native Plant Society**
www.wnps.org

Bellevue's Natural Lawn and Garden website

www.bellevuewa.gov/naturallyardcare.htm

Bellevue's Natural Gardening Guides

Composting Food Scraps • Composting Yard Trimmings • Drip and Soak • Fertilizer • Garden Design • Lawn Alternatives • Lawns • Mulch • Pests, Weeds, and Diseases • Plant Right • Seasonal Calendar • Soil • Watering

For copies, visit Bellevue's Natural Lawn and Garden website (*above*) or call Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-6932.

The Garden Hotline

www.gardenhotline.org or 206-633-0224

Natural Yard Care Neighborhoods

www.naturallyardcare.info

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