

Ground Covers

Common Name	Species	<u>Local,</u> <u>Regional,</u> <u>Western,</u> <u>Midwestern</u> Native, or Introduced	Life Form	Flower color	Flower time	Fruit	Evergreen	Xeric	Comment
Kinnickinnik	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	L	low shrub/ ground cover	pink	spring	yes	yes	very	Easy to find in commerce. Excellent groundcover for slopes or under pine trees. Important plant to Native Americans.
Fringed sage	<i>Artemisia frigida</i>	W, M	perennial ground cover	yellow-green	Summer		yes	extremely	Fringed sage has fragrant, feathery finely divided silvery leaves. A very pretty plant, Some Native Americans used the chewed leaves of fringed sage as a dressing for wounds.
Alpine Pink	<i>Dianthus haematocalyx var. pindicola</i>	Introduced	perennial ground cover	pink	Summer		yes	yes	Alpine pink is very low growing and has adorable, stemless, carnation-like flowers. An amazing small-scale groundcover for a dry site.
Northern Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum compositum</i>	L	low shrub/ ground cover	Cream to yellow to pink	Early summer		no	extremely	Wild buckwheats are very important to pollinators. This one is one of our locals, a lover of very rocky sites.
Sulfur Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum var. hypoleium</i>	R	low shrub/ ground cover	yellow	Summer		yes	yes	There are MANY varieties and subspecies of Sulphur Flower Buckwheat. This one occurs primarily in the Wenatchee Mountains. It is a mat former with yellow flowers. A new one for us - not sure how large it will grow.

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Sulphur Flower Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum var. majus</i>	R	low shrub/ ground cover	Cream to pink	spring		yes	yes	One of many varieties and subspecies of Sulphur Flower Buckwheat. This one, from the mountains in Ferry County, WA, is an outstanding ground cover for an occasionally watered area.
Barrett's Penstemon	<i>Penstemon barrettiae</i>	R	low shrub/ ground cover	Purple	spring		yes	very	Officially rare in the wild, but easy to cultivate. Native only to the area in and around the Columbia River Gorge. Outstanding landscape plant. Evergreen shrub about 6 - 12 inches tall by 3 - 4 ft. wide. Long lived.
Shrubby Penstemon	<i>Penstemon fruticosus</i>	L	Mid-low shrub: ground cover	Purple, occasionally pink or white	Spring		yes	very	One of the very best of the locals. Showy year-round. Likes rocky sites. May spread up to 3 ft. Long lived.
Cliff Penstemon, Rock Penstemon	<i>Penstemon rupicola</i>	R	low shrub/ ground cover	pink to purple	spring		yes	yes	Outstanding ground cover or rock garden plant. Frequently pink flowered, with bluish foliage. Very beautiful year-round. Not common in commerce. Long lived in the landscape.

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Hens & Chicks, Live-Forever, House Leek	<i>Sempervivum sp.</i>	Introduced	Ground cover	yellow, pink, white	spring, summer		yes	yes	Thousands of species exist, native to Europe. Great plants for dry, rocky areas or green roofs.
Creeping Thyme	<i>Thymus sp.</i>	Introduced	Ground cover	White, pink or purple	Summer		yes	yes	Great groundcover for dry areas, although it is not a native plant. Lawn substitute for areas with light foot traffic.