

Low Shrubs

Common Name	Species	<u>Local,</u> <u>Regional,</u> <u>Western,</u> <u>Midwestern</u> Native, or Introduced	Size	Flower color	Flower time	Evergreen	Xeric	Comment
Gray rabbitbrush	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	W, M	2-4 ft.	yellow	late summer-early fall	no	extremely	This is the plant you see flowering in the dry shrub-steppe in August, September, and into October. Butterflies and bees love it. Rabbitbrush provides late season nectar and pollen.
Douglas' buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum douglasii</i>	W	6 - 8 inches	butter yellow	Summer	yes	extremely	Native throughout the west, Douglas' buckwheat grows regionally in the western part of the Columbia Basin. Small, narrow leaves.
Wyeth buckwheat, Parsnip flower buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum heracleoides</i>	L	6 - 8 inches	cream to yellow	Early summer	semi-evergreen	extremely	Native to the western US. Large clusters of creamy white flowers grace low shrubs with narrow, frosty-green leaves. 8- 14" tall, 1-3' wide. Fully hardy in this area. Grows in sagebrush steppe, dry open Ponderosa pine forest, and on dry, rocky soils.
Slender buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum microthecum var. laxiflorum</i>	R	2 ft	White	Late summer	yes	extremely	Very showy and great for late summer pollinators. Honeybees went nuts over this. So did the customers. Will reseed vigorously & spread.

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Snow buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum niveum</i>	R	1 ft.	White	Summer	semi-evergreen	extremely	Snow buckwheat is native to the Pacific Northwest. A great plant for restoration and for xeriscapes. Like all buckwheats, important for native pollinators: utilized by the rare Mormon metalmark butterfly.
Oval-leaf Wild Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum ovalifolium</i>	W	1 inch	creamy white	Summer	semi-evergreen	yes	This wonderful little mat former or bun – shaped plant grows throughout the West in high elevations. The flowers range in color from cream to pink to red to purple. This variety has creamy white flowers.
Round-Head Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum sphaerocephalum</i>	L	< 1 ft.	yellow	Early summer	semi-evergreen	extremely	Each wild buckwheat has its own specific butterfly, according to entomology researchers. Blooms with and looks great with purple sage. Narrow dark green leaves are wooly white underneath. Quite woody & shrubby.

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Blue Mountain buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum strictum</i>	W	4-12 inches	butter yellow	Summer	semi-evergreen	extremely	This buckwheat is common in NE Oregon. Pale sea green leaves have white-wooly undersides. Variable over its western range: generally low-growing with light yellow flower clusters.
Thymeleaf Buckwheat, "Ming Tree"	<i>Eriogonum thymoides</i>	L	about 6 inches	pink & white	spring	semi-evergreen		A tiny treasure. Very slow growing. Once very much in demand for the bonsai trade.
Lavender	<i>Lavandula</i> sp. (Hardy English)	Introduced	2 ft	lavender	Summer	semi-evergreen	yes	Hardy English lavender does well in dry gardens. Fragrant flowers have many uses, and are loved by bees. Goldfinches eat the seeds.
Davidson's Penstemon	<i>Penstemon davidsonii</i>	W	1 - 5 inches.	Purple, occasionally pink or white	spring	yes	yes	A popular, widely grown rock garden species. Forms a dense, creeping, woody mat with evergreen leaves, and large rose or lavender flowers in late spring.
Shrubby Penstemon	<i>Penstemon fruticosus</i>	L	1 - 2 ft,	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 in the landscape.

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Pineleaf Penstemon	<i>Penstemon pinifolius</i>	W	< 1 ft.	red, occasionally orange or yellow	Early to mid summer	yes	yes	Have not tested how dry it will go. VERY showy in bloom, and nice out of bloom. Needle-like foliage. Cultivars available.
Thimbleberry	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	L	2 - 4 ft.	White	Spring	no	no	Included because I love it. Delicious fruit, beautiful flowers, great leaves. Good plant for a lightly shaded to sunny spot.
Purple Sage	<i>Salvia dorrii</i>	L	1 - 2 ft, occasionally 3+	Purple	Summer	semi-evergreen	extremely	Very showy early summer bloomer. Good for pollinators. Some traditional medicinal uses. Important to Native Americans.
Birchleaf Spiraea	<i>Spiraea betulifolia</i>	L	to 2 ft.	White	Early summer	no	somewhat	Forest shrub: not a desert plant - likes occasional watering. Very showy and attractive to different pollinators.