

PLANTS THAT THRIVE IN EASTERN SIERRA GARDENS

Compiled by: Karen Ferrell-Ingram, native plant propagator
Sherry Taylor, Garden Club of America / Partners for Plants
Elizabeth Tenney, Master Gardener, University of Nevada-Reno

These plants will minimize garden maintenance, water use and fire danger, and provide a beautiful home landscape that complements the scenic surroundings of the Eastern Sierra.

Secrets of a successful garden

Every successful garden needs planning and some follow-up care after planting.

- Fire-resistance depends more on location and maintenance than variety planted. Plan your garden to include a 30' fire-safe buffer. (See "[RESOURCES](#)")
- Water regularly for 1st season; periodically deep soak once plants are established.
- Mulch to conserve water and control weeds.
- Prune selectively for better bloom, to remove dead wood and limit fire hazard. Consult a good pruning guide for each plant's specific requirements.

Some recommended plant varieties

Growing areas differ within Mono County. Check with your local nursery to determine which plants are appropriate for your elevation.

Plant outside the 30' fire-safe buffer (*)
Native plant (N)

LARGE TREES

(Large – over 40')

COMMON HACKBERRY	<i>(Celtis occidentalis)</i>	
WHITE ASH	<i>(Fraxinus americana)</i>	
HONEY LOCUST	<i>(Gleditsia triacanthos inermis)</i>	
KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE	<i>(Gymnocladus dioica)</i>	
AMERICAN SWEETGUM	<i>(Liquidambar styraciflua)</i>	
SIBERIAN CRABAPPLE	<i>(Malus baccata)</i>	
COLORADO SPRUCE	<i>(Picea pungens)</i>	(*)
LOGPOLE PINE	<i>(Pinus contorta)</i>	(*)(N)
JEFFREY PINE	<i>(Pinus jeffreyi)</i>	(*)(N)
JAPANESE BLACK PINE	<i>(Pinus thunbergiana)</i>	(*)
WESTERN COTTONWOOD	<i>(Populus fremontii)</i> -male trees only	(N)
EUROPEAN BIRD CHERRY	<i>(Prunus padus 'Plena')</i>	
RED OAK	<i>(Quercus rubra)</i>	
SILVER LINDEN	<i>(Tilia tomentosa)</i>	

MEDIUM TREES

(Medium – 20' to 40')

WESTERN WATER BIRCH	<i>(Betula occidentalis)</i>	(N)
WESTERN HACKBERRY	<i>(Celtis reticulata)</i>	(N)
GREEN ASH	<i>(Fraxinus pennsylvanica)</i>	
JAPANESE CRABAPPLE	<i>(Malus floribunda)</i>	
BECHTEL CRABAPPLE	<i>(Malus ioensis plena)</i>	
QUAKING ASPEN	<i>(Populus tremuloides)</i>	(N)
MOUNTAIN ASH	<i>(Sorbus aucuparia)</i>	

SMALL TREES

(Small - about 20')

AMUR MAPLE	<i>(Acer ginnala)</i>	
MOUNTAIN MAPLE	<i>(Acer glabrum)</i>	(N)
COCKSPUR HAWTHORN	<i>(Crataegus crus-galli)</i>	
DESERT OLIVE	<i>(Forestiera neomexicana)</i>	(N)

SCHEIDECKER CRABAPPLE	<i>(Malus scheideckeri)</i>	
BRISTLECONE PINE	<i>(Pinus aristata)</i>	(*)(N)
PINON PINE	<i>(Pinus monophylla)</i>	(*)(N)
FLOWERING PEAR	<i>(Pyrus calleryana)</i>	
SMOOTH SUMAC	<i>(Rhus glabra)</i>	
3-LEAFED SUMAC	<i>(Rhus trilobata)</i>	(N)

HIGH SHRUBS

(High – over 6')

MOUNTAIN MAPLE	<i>(Acer glabrum)</i>	(N)
SHADBUSH, SERVICE BERRY	<i>(Amelanchier laevis)</i>	
SHADBUSH	<i>(Amelanchier alnifolia)</i>	(N)
SHADBUSH	<i>(Amelanchier utahensis)</i>	(N)
CHOKEBERRY	<i>(Aronia melanocarpa)</i>	
BUTTERFLY BUSH	<i>(Buddleia davidii)</i>	
SIBERIAN PEA-SHRUB	<i>(Caragana arborescens)</i>	
MOUNTAIN MAHOGANY	<i>(Cercocarpus ledifolius)</i>	(*)(N)
FERNBUSH	<i>(Chamaebatia millifolium)</i>	(N)
SIBERIAN DOGWOOD	<i>(Cornus alba 'Sibirica')</i>	
CREEK DOGWOOD	<i>(Cornus sericea)</i>	(N)
REDTWIG DOGWOOD, REDOSIER DOGWOOD	<i>(Cornus stolonifera)</i>	(N)

WINGED EUONYMUS, BURNING BUSH	<i>(Euonymus alatus)</i>	
FORSYTHIA	<i>(Forsythia 'Beatrix Farrand')</i>	
WITCH HAZEL	<i>(Hamamelis)</i>	
PFITZER JUNIPER	<i>(Juniperus chinensis 'Pfitzeriana')</i>	(*)
BEAUTY BUSH	<i>(Kolkwitzia amabilis)</i>	
HEDGE CRABAPPLE	<i>(Malus pumila 'Centurion')</i>	
BAYBERRY	<i>(Myrica pennsylvanica)</i>	
WESTERN SAND CHERRY	<i>(Prunus besseyi)</i>	
BITTERCHERRY	<i>(Prunus emarginata)</i>	(N)
WESTERN CHOKECHERRY	<i>(Prunus virginiana demissa)</i>	(N)
TALLHEDGE BUCKTHORN	<i>(Rhamnus frangula 'Columnaris')</i>	
STAGHORN SUMAC	<i>(Rhus typhina)</i>	
BLUE ELDERBERRY	<i>(Sambucus caerulea, S. glauca)</i>	(N)
SILVER BUFFALO BERRY	<i>(Shepherdia argentea)</i>	(N)
COMMON LILAC	<i>(Syringa vulgaris)</i>	
VIBURNUM	<i>(Viburnum lantana, V. dentatum)</i>	

LOW SHRUBS

(Low – under 6')

BEARBERRY, KINNIKINNICK	<i>(Arctostaphylos uva-ursi)</i>	
SOUTHERNWOOD, OLD MAN	<i>(Artemisia abrotanum)</i>	
GREAT BASIN SAGEBRUSH	<i>(Artemisia tridentata)</i>	
JAPANESE BARBERRY	<i>(Berberis thunbergii)</i>	
DESERT CEANOTHUS	<i>(Ceanothus greggii)</i>	(N)
SPREADING COTONEASTER	<i>(Cotoneaster divaricatus)</i>	
SULFUR BUCKWHEAT	<i>(Eriogonum umbellatum)</i>	(N)
DWARF WINGED EUONYMUS, BURNING BUSH	<i>(Euonymus alatus)</i>	
WINTERCREEPER	<i>(Euonymus fortunei)</i>	
APACHE PLUME	<i>(Fallugia paradoxa)</i>	
ARMSTRONG JUNIPER	<i>(Juniperus chinensis 'Armstrongii')</i>	(*)
SAN JOSE JUNIPER	<i>(Juniperus chinensis 'San Jose')</i>	(*)
MUGHO PINE	<i>(Pinus mugo mughus)</i>	(*)

SHRUBBY POTENTILLA	(<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>)	(N)
ANTELOPE BITTERBRUSH	(<i>Purshia tridentata</i>)	(*) (N)
FRAGRANT SUMAC	(<i>Rhus aromatica</i>)	
GOLDEN CURRANT	(<i>Ribes aureum</i>)	
WAX CURRANT	(<i>Ribes cereum</i>)	(N)
COYOTE WILLOW	(<i>Salix exigua</i>)	(N)
PURPLE SAGE	(<i>Salvia dorrii</i>)	(N)
SPIRAEA	(<i>Spiraea billiardii</i>)	
MOUNTAIN SNOWBERRY	(<i>Symphoricarpos rotundifolius</i>)	(N)
DWARF EUROPEAN CRANBERRY BUSH	(<i>Viburnum opulus</i> 'Nana')	

GROUND COVERS

BEARBERRY, KINNIKINNICK	(<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>)	
SERBIAN BELLFLOWER	(<i>Campanula poscharskyana</i>)	
SNOW-IN-SUMMER	(<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>)	
PURPLE-LEAF WINTER CREEPER	(<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> 'Colorata')	
SWEET WOODRUFF	(<i>Galium odoratum</i>)	
DAYLILY	(<i>Hemerocallis</i>)	
CINQUEFOIL, spring	(<i>Potentilla tabernaemontanii</i>)	
CREEPING JUNIPER	(<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>)	(*)
TAM JUNIPER	(<i>Juniperus sabina</i> 'Tamariscifolia')	(*)
VIRGINIA CREEPER	(<i>Parthenocissus</i>)	
MOSS PINK	(<i>Phlox subulata</i>)	
STONECROP	(<i>Sedum, spp.</i>)	
WOOLLY THYME	(<i>Thymus pseudolanuginosus</i>)	
WOOLLY SPEEDWELL	(<i>Veronica incana</i>)	

GRASSES

INDIAN RICE GRASS	(<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>)	(N)
NEEDLEGRASS	(<i>Achnatherum spp.</i>)	(N)
NEEDLE AND THREAD GRASS	(<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>)	(N)
GREAT BASIN WILD RYE	(<i>Leymus cinereus</i>)	(N)
CREEPING WILD RYE	(<i>Leymus triticoides</i>)	(N)
ALKALI SACATON	(<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>)	(N)

PERENNIALS

YARROW	(<i>Achillea</i>)	(N)
HUMMINGBIRD MINT	(<i>Agastache cana</i>)	
COLUMBINE	(<i>Aquilegia</i>)	(N)
ARTEMISIA	(<i>Artemisia</i>)	
DUSTY MILLER	(<i>Centaurea cineraria</i>)	
CLEMATIS	(<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>)	(N)
VIRGIN'S BOWER	(<i>Clematis montana</i>)	
COREOPSIS	(<i>Coreopsis grandiflora, C. lanceolata</i>)	
SWEET WILLIAM, PINKS	(<i>Dianthus</i>)	
BUCKWHEAT	(<i>Eriogonum spp.</i>)	(N)
CALIFORNIA POPPY	(<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>)	(N)
DAYLILY	(<i>Hemerocallis</i>)	
HYSSOP	(<i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>)	
GILIA, STAR OR SCARLET	(<i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i>)	
LUPINE	(<i>Lupinus spp.</i>)	(N)
LAVENDER	(<i>Lavandula spp.</i>)	
BLUE FLAX	(<i>Linum lewisii</i>)	
BEE BALM	(<i>Monarda didyma</i>)	

CATMINT	(<i>Nepeta x faassenii</i>)	
EVENING PRIMROSE	(<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>)	(N)
HERBACEOUS PEONY	(<i>Paeonia</i>)	
ORIENTAL POPPY	(<i>Papaver orientale</i>)	
PENSTEMON	(<i>Penstemon spp.</i>)	(N)
PHLOX	(<i>Phlox paniculata, P. suffruticosa</i>)	
RUSSIAN SAGE	(<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>)	(N)
BETHLEHEM SAGE	(<i>Pulmonaria saccharata</i>)	
BLUE SALVIA	(<i>Salvia spp.</i>)	
APRICOT GLOBEMALLOW	(<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>)	(N)
LAMB'S EAR	(<i>Stachys lanata</i>)	
PRINCE'S PLUME	(<i>Stanleya pinnata</i>)	(N)
MEADOW RUE	(<i>Thalictrum</i>)	
SPEEDWELL	(<i>Veronica, spp.</i>)	

RESOURCES

PLANT INFORMATION

"An Eastern Sierra Firescape Plant List", [Fire Safe Plan for the Community-Wildlands Interface of Inyo and Mono Counties \(9/26/02 draft\)](#) by Bruce Allan Klein, Eastside Associates (760) 872-6727, www.firesafecouncil.org

[Gardening in the Mountain West](#) by Barbara Hyde, ISBN 0-9635224-3-4

Home Landscaping Guide for Lake Tahoe and Vicinity

- The Tahoe Regional Planning Area Recommended Plant List of "resource- efficient plants"
- Accent Plant List of the Tahoe Basin.
John Cobourn, Water Resource Specialist,
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension,
P.O. Box 8208, Incline Village, NV 89452-8208

Sunset Western Garden Book

[Xeriscape Plant Guide](#) (Denver Water, American Water Works Association), ISBN 1-55591-322-9

High Country Gardens, www.highcountrygardens.com (1-800-925-9387)

PLANT SOURCES

- Bishop Nursery, Bishop (760) 873-7515
- California Native Plant Society - Bristlecone Chapter
Fall Plant Sale For INFORMATION: (760) 387-2913
- Dry Creek Garden Co., 7250 S. Virginia, Reno (775) 851-0353
- High Country Gardens www.highcountrygardens.com
(1-800-925-9387)
- Mammoth Lakes Nursery, Mammoth Lakes (760) 934-6012
- Pleasant Gardens Nursery, Mammoth Lakes (760) 924-8981
- Sage Hill Nursery, Crowley Lake (760) 935-9110
- Sierra Gardens Nursery, Bishop (760) 873-3459