#### Title:

#### Guide to Perennial Horticultural Plants suitable for 2024 Canadian Plant Hardiness Zone 4

#### Additional keywords:

Horticulture, amateur gardening, professional gardening, nurseries, gardens, landscaping, parks, plant stress, plant pests, plant diseases, Guides for the Prairie Gardener, University of Alberta, floweryprose, calgarycottagegardener

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#### Acknowledgements and permissions:

The second and third authors have made freely available the use of their own perennial species plantings lists for Zone 4 included in this document. They are also the authors of the 'Perennials' and 'Trees and Shrubs' publications in the 'Guides for the Prairie Gardener' series published by Touchwood Editions, Canada. from which many of the listings presented are drawn. Gardening questions are also answered in those publications that describe how to get the best results from growing the recommended species listed for use in Canadian Plant Hardiness Zone 4. Publication ordering information is available from Sheryl Normandeau at Email: <a href="mailto:shrob2@telus.net">shrob2@telus.net</a>. Additional adapted species suitable for Zone 4 were added by the first author, sourced from an additional professional horticulturist in Edmonton.

At Linktree <a href="https://linktr.ee/sherylnormandeau">https://linktr.ee/sherylnormandeau</a>
Touchwood Editions Ltd) <a href="https://touchwoodeditions.com">https://touchwoodeditions.com</a>

In this web accessible document a clickable online link, mostly the Plant Finder link at <a href="https://gardenia.net">https://gardenia.net</a>, is provided for each species to the extent that it is available online, with some information about its characteristics relative to use in Canada Plant Hardiness Zone 4. Do note that USA links use different Zone map numbers that do not correspond with Canadian Zone map numbers. The best source of information for a plant species in which a gardener has an interest is always a local

nursery supplier of plants. Unless otherwise credited plant photos were obtained free for royalty-free publication use from Pixabay <a href="https://pixabay.com">https://pixabay.com</a> who are thanked for their free download publication services. Numerous similar sites are also used for copyright-free use in the document.

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At the time of document completion (December 2024) all listed website sources were confirmed as secure online URL link addresses, and no links were used that were known to be insecure. Specific varieties named on the recommended plants list for use in Zone 4 were not always described at available websites. A link is provided for those cases where available, to an alternative variety that is described, or just to the plant Genera description.

#### Brief Horticultural Notes concerning the Use of the Species Lists for Choosing What to Plant, and Why

Notes by Dr. Keith G. Briggs (Date: 26/1/2025)

#### 1. Plant Hardiness Zones and Plant /Species Selection:

Plant Hardiness Zones have been mapped for Canada, with plant survival being more difficult in Zones with lower numbers on the map. Recent Canadian Plant Hardiness Zones map can be viewed at the following Canadian websites. A new updated Canadian Federal Zone Map is expected in 2025, incorporating updated climate change data for Canada.

https://edmontonhort.com/know-your-climate-zone/ (Source: Edmonton Hort. Society, 2014 update)

or at this Canadian Federal Plant Hardiness website:

https:/planthardiness.gc.ca/images/PHZ 2014 CFS Map.pdf (Updated 2014)

Edmonton is shown on the Federal map as located on the border between Zones 3b and 4a. A brief explanation is also provided about how the Plant Hardiness Zones are determined. Modified Zone maps can be expected in the future as global warming is occurring at a much higher rate since 2021, and Zone perimeters and shapes will consequently change over time. (If your location is on the margins of Zone 4, and you are in doubt as to which Zone applies, choose Zone 3 adapted plants, which will be more hardy).

All recommended plant species listed in this document are normally sufficiently hardy to grow in Canadian Plant Hardiness Zone 4, or higher numbered Zones. When purchasing any garden plant do ensure that the tag indicates 'Suitable for Zone 4', or that the species is one that is indicated as suited to

a <u>lower numbered Zone</u>. Purchased plants have tags on them that indicate the Canadian Plant Hardiness Zones to which they are best suited. Check with your horticultural store plant supplier to be sure!

#### 2. Climate Change and Urban Warming Effects on Plant Adaptation:

Edmonton gardeners, as an Alberta example, have in recent years seen that increased annual average temperatures have allowed better local survival and performance even of some plant species that were usually only adapted to Zone 5 and higher numbered Canadian Plant Hardiness Zones. The urban environment of Edmonton, like other big cities, causes a warming effect independent of climate, that has also likely improved the winter survival of some species, whilst negatively affecting other species that do better under cooler conditions. A major feature of climate change is a very marked increase in the fluctuations and extremes of plant sensitive high and low temperatures, and seasonal fluctuation in moisture availability, wind strength, snow cover, frost frequency / severity, and the like. As a result, the lists of plant species adaptation to future Canadian Plant Hardiness Zone Maps will certainly need updating over time. The lists provided here are the most reliable guides presently available for Canadian Plant Hardiness Zone 4 as of the most recently available updates.

#### 3. Microclimates and Their Effects on Plant Adaptation in Small Areas of a Garden:

Even within a particular Plant Hardiness Zone every garden has within it its' own range of unique and specific environmental and other growing conditions to which its' plants are exposed. These are referred to as 'micro-climates' and/or 'micro-environments'. Separate lists of recommended plants are presented in this document to address what is best suited to some of the more frequently encountered micro-environments. Some obvious examples that the gardener would need to consider when deciding what to plant where would include <a href="heat traps">heat traps</a> (such as hotter areas against a South facing wall that receive direct sunshine and heat all day), areas prone to rapid <a href="https://driving.com/driving.co

#### 4. Having selected the Preferred Plants of Choice what can be Done to Make Them Grow Well?

This is where the hard work of actual gardening becomes a requirement! Read those Prairie Gardening Guides, and others too, where you can learn about the many things you have to do according to the plant species. They describe how to provide suitable soil conditions, meet planting requirements and required fertilizer regimes, as well as how to optimize watering regimes. Some species have high maintenance requirements, others very low...choose carefully. You will need to learn about plant thinning, pruning, transplanting, plant pest and disease control, plant and garden cleanup for winter, special tasks needed in spring, and what to do when your plants do not look healthy. Some perennials also do well when grown in pots or planters on a patio. Get to know other nearby gardeners and professional horticulturists working in your area and show them your garden. They may have very useful ideas that you can adopt, and they can probably answer many of your own plant and garden questions. Most of all have fun gardening and take the time to enjoy your own unique garden or patio. Other residents near you will also be viewing your garden improvements...so you will not be the only ones enjoying the rewards of your worthy gardening efforts!

#### 5. There are very many suitable plants for Canada Plant Hardiness Zone 4!

This document provides a very large number of different recommendations for plants suitable for different garden planting objectives relevant to Canadian Plant Hardiness Zone 4. Do note that the expected heights and widths of plants indicated in this document can vary tremendously even within a species and also with the particular variety chosen and are greatly influenced by the specific microenvironment in which they grow. Ask your local nursery outlet adviser for specific plant size details and for other advice about your particular garden. They will be happy to help!

#### Some other notes about this online document:

Brief information for a species is made available in this document by provision of one clickable website URL for each, that provides a significant amount of descriptive information for that species, or for a very similar species or variety. Clicking on the provided URL address will open pages with the plant description.

You can also click directly on the URL <u>www.gardenia.net</u> or on a local <u>Plant Finder Tool site</u> such as this typical one at:

#### https://www.goldenacre.ca/plant-finder/

Gardenia.net has been used as the primary web information source throughout, being very comprehensive in species coverage, although it is a USA website which reflects a differently numbered USA Plant Adaptability Zones Map. Photo credits all the copyright-free photo sources used are indicated.

Very many other informative sources can also be found online and consulted, but the reader should ensure that the information provided in them applies to Canadian Plant Hardiness Zone 4, and not to other more forgiving gardening environments in Canada or elsewhere. Remember that USA Zone numbers classify plant hardiness somewhat differently than do Canadian Zone numbers. The following Table indicates the typical differences between the Canadian and USA Plant Hardiness Zones. Make sure your choices are based on the Canadian Zone Plant Hardiness numbers!

| Typical Plant Hard | diness Zone Numbers |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| USDA Zone          | Canadian Zone       |
| 0                  | 1                   |
| 1                  | 2                   |
| 2                  | 3                   |
| 3                  | 4                   |
| 4                  | 5                   |
| 5                  | 6                   |
| 6                  | 7                   |
| 7                  | 8                   |
|                    |                     |

Brief notes are also presented in this document for some of the species, indicating plant size and occasionally other notable plant features. A photo of each is also provided, mainly sourced from www.Pixabay.com (or from other royalty-free online photo sources, all duly acknowledged)

#### The importance of knowing how large your new plants will grow:

The brief plant size notes provided for each different species or variety listed in this information resource can only <u>provide a very generalized indication</u> of just how tall and wide the plant that you purchase for your garden might be when it is fully grown. When purchasing a new plant, the information on the plant tag should always be consulted, and personalized advice sought from your local horticultural provider. They will both provide local information that you will need to know to gain the best visual effects within your garden landscape. This is especially important to ensure use of the correct spacings between similar plants and to also take into account what other competitive species might be adjacent to your planned planting locations.

Incorrect spacing at planting time (either too close together, or insufficiently apart from other existing adjacent plants of the same or a different species) is one of the most frequent gardening mistakes that novice gardeners make. Check the plant size information in detail for any new plants that you will be using, as there are very many factors that will affect how large your newly purchased plants will then actually grow, and their likely shape and appearance when fully grown.

Here are just a few factors that will affect how large your new plants might grow.... sometimes your favorite plants do not grow as you might expect.....!

- Choice of variety within a species...they can a vary a lot in size and shape
- Prior history and size of your purchased plant at the nursery (eg. vigor, fertilizer, watering etc.)
- Ensuring correct species choice for each of the different conditions found in your garden
- Use of correct planting conditions and management for the species that you choose
- Knowing how nearby plants might compete for space, light, nutrients etc., thus minimizing growth potential. How will your new plant(s) affect the existing plants nearby?
- Will your new plants require pruning, shaping or other special attention for the best size and shape?
- Ongoing management that will affect size and shape? eg Watering, fertilizer, disease and pest control etc.
- Will your plants grow too large, or be too small, for the spot where you plan to plant them?
- Know how to mix species heights, widths, textures and colors to gain interesting visual effects
- The varying seasonal and climatic conditions, especially drought, heat, winterkill, frost tolerance and resistance to pests and diseases will also influence how large your plants will grow, or do not grow as large as you expected. Learn all about your prospective plant purchase before taking it home!
- Many other factors also affect the challenges of gardening well, and the choosing of the right species for the space where you will plant! Good luck with your choices...and look after them well!

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Please scroll down!

DANGER – BE AWARE! Many, but certainly not all, shrubs well adapted to the shade are poisonous, and can be harmful to adults, children, pets and wildlife when their different plant parts are eaten or touched. Check the list in this document of potentially poisonous perennial garden plants, presented at the end of this document. For detail also read the following Government of Alberta Publication AGDEX 666-2 about 'Poisonous Outdoor Plants':

https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex13348/\$file/666-2.pdf

\*

#### TREES AND SHRUBS

# Best tree (T) and shrub selections for part shade

- Alpine currant (*Ribes alpinum*) Green leaves, red berries Up to 180cm x 180cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/ribes-currant">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/ribes-currant</a>
- Azalea 'Northern Lights' rhododendron (*Rhododendron* spp.) Green leaves, pink, blue or purplish flowers Up to 90cm tall x 90cm wide. Marginally hardy in Alberta, needs acidic soil to thrive <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/rhododendron-azalea">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/rhododendron-azalea</a>
- Boxwood (*Buxus sinica* var. *insularis*) Dark green leaves (the main feature) Up to 90cm tall x 90cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/buxus-boxwood">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/buxus-boxwood</a>,
- Daphne, Carol Mackie (*Daphne x burkwoodi*) Up to 180cm tall x 180cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/daphne
- (T) Eastern hemlock tree (*Tsuga canadensis*) Green leaves, flowers rosy purple. Up to 21m tall x 11m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/hemlock

- Hydrangea, paniculata or Pegee ( $Hydrangea\ paniculata\ spp.$ ) White, creamy white or pink Up to 150cm tall x 150cm wide
  - https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/hydrangea
- Hydrangea, smooth (Hydrangea arborescens) Up to 150cm tall x 150cm wide
  - https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/hydrangea
- 'PJM' Group Rhododendron (*Rhododendron* 'PJM *Elite*') Only marginally hardy in Alberta, needs acidic soil
  - https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/rhododendron-azalea
- Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) Green leaves, clustered flowers delicate white, berries purple-black Up to 9m tall x 6m wide
  - https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/amelanchier (Does not include Canadian saskatoon) https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/9780773261013 (Go to More Information, then read the 113pp Berry Production Manual. Has everything you need to know, and more!)
- Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* spp.) Green leaves, flowers pure white, and showy white berries in clusters Up to 60cm tall x 3m wide. Forms thickets and can be invasive in a garden setting https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/symphoricarpos-snowberry
- Sumac, Tiger Eyes 'Bail Tiger' (*Rhus typhina*) Green leaves, very showy red/orange in fall. Green yellow flowers, then dark red berries. Up to 180cm tall x 180cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/rhus-sumac">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/rhus-sumac</a>

Viburnum spp. including highbush cranberry, nannyberry and arrowwood (Viburnum spp.) Green leaves some varieties staying winter red, flowers often fragrant, white color sometimes pink; Red berries. Up to 3.7m tall x 3.7m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/viburnum

#### Photos - Best tree and shrub selections for part shade:



# Great tree (T) and shrub selections for damp areas

- (T) Alder, River, Mountain, Speckled, Thin leaf (*Alnus tenuifolia* spp.) Dark green through fall, purple-red catkins. Up to 11m tall x 7.6m wide
  - https://treecanada.ca/resources/trees-of-canada/mountain-alder-alnus-incana-ssp-tenuifolia/
- (T) Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) Green leaves turning bright yellow to red in fall, holding leaves Up to 21m tall x 15m wide
  - https://www.gardenia.net/plant/fraxinus-pennsylvanica
- (T) Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) Dull green leaves turn undistinguished yellow in fall, flowers greenish, Heavily berried all winter. Up to 30m tall x 12m wide <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celtis occidentalis">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celtis occidentalis</a>
- (T) River birch (*Betula nigra*) leaves vibrant green turning gold-yellow in fall, flowers become catkins, characteristic showy bark. Up to 21m tall x 18m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/betula-nigra-heritage-river-birch

Choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*) Foliage green but red to purple-red in fall, flowers white to white-pink, berries orange, red or black. Can also be a small tree. Up to 9m tall x 6m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/prunus-virginiana">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/prunus-virginiana</a>

Elderberry (*Sambucus* spp.) Green leaves, white flowers, purple-black berries. Up to 240cm tall x 140cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/elderberry

Red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) Leaves lush green turning showy vibrant red, orange or purple in fall, flowers showy white pink or red turning into red or purple berries. Up to 3m tall x 4m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/cornus-dogwood">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/cornus-dogwood</a>

Viburnum (*Viburnum* spp.) Green leaves turning reddish in fall, showy flowers fragrant, white but sometimes pink. Up to 240cm tall x 120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/viburnum

Willow (*Salix* spp.) Green leaves, but stems showy in yellow to red colors, many different forms too many to describe here, some even weep! Up to 25m tall x 20m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/salix-willow">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/salix-willow</a>

#### Photos - Great tree selections for damp areas:









Alder catkins

Green ash

Hackberry

River birch

#### Photos - Great shrub selections for damp areas:









Chokecherry twig

Pink elderberry

Red osier dogwood

Viburnum



Willow catkin + bees

# Good tree (T) and shrub selections for dry sites

(T) Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) Green leaves turning bright yellow to red in fall, holding leaves. Up to 24m tall x 24m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/ash

Butternut, white walnut (*Juglans cinerea*) Up to 30m tall x 12-20m wide; Rare; N. American native https://www.ontario.ca/page/butternut

- (T) Ohio buckeye or horse chestnut (*Aesculus glabra*) Bright green leaves, flowers upright clusters, yellow-green. Can become a huge tree as a specimen planting. Up to 12m tall x 12m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/ohio-buckeye">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/ohio-buckeye</a>
- (T) Pin cherry (*Prunus pennsylvanica*) Dark green leaves (poisonous), flowers white, berries bright red (Also occurs as shrub form). Up to 15m tall x 7m wide <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prunus pensylvanica">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prunus pensylvanica</a>
- Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.) Sweet fragrance, leaves green, flowers white, yellow, orange, pink or red Up to 8m tall x 120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/lonicera-honeysuckle

Juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) Blue, green, bronze-gold or gold evergreen foliage, varied texture and form. Up to 90cm tall x 150cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/juniperus-juniper

Potentilla (*Potentilla* spp.) Green leaves, flowers mostly prolific, showy large and bright yellow, but some orange or pink. Up to 120cm tall x 150cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/potentilla-fruticosa">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/potentilla-fruticosa</a>

#### Photos - Good tree selections for dry sites









Pin cherry

Good shrub selections for dry sites





Butternut



Honeysuckle Juniper

er

## **Best ground-cover shrubs**

Bearberry, also called Kinnikinnick (*Archtostaphylos uva-ursi*) Leaves leathery, dark evergreen, trailing red stems, white to pink flowers. Up to 30cm tall x 180cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/kinnikinnick

Bunchberry dogwood (*Cornus canadensis*) Leaves green, flowers profuse and white, bright red 'berries' Up to 20cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/cornus-canadensis

Creeping cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster adpressus*) Leaves dark green, then turn showy purple, red and bronze in fall, profuse red berries last all winter. Up to 30cm tall x 180cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/cotoneaster-adpressus">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/cotoneaster-adpressus</a>

'Hillside Creeper' pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) Leaves dark green needles. Up to 60cm tall x 200cm wide <a href="https://www.antheiagardens.ca/plant-name/Pinus-sylvestris-Hillside-Creeper">https://www.antheiagardens.ca/plant-name/Pinus-sylvestris-Hillside-Creeper</a>

Juniper, common (*Juniperis communis*) Leaves varied greens to blue, bronze and silvery, varied forms Up to 15cm tall x 90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/common-juniper

Juniper, creeping (*Juniperis horizontalis*) Up to 15cm tall x 90cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/creeping-juniper

Lydia broom also known as woadwaxen (*Genista lydia*) Leaves evergreen, flowers mostly yellow Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/genista-lydia-bangle-lydian-broom

Siberian cypress (*Microbiota decussata*) Leaves evergreen, prostrate fanlike. Up to 20cm tall x 3.5m wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/siberian-carpet-cypress

Spruce, Bird's nest (*Picea abies*) Leaves dark evergreen, prostrate form. 1m tall x 2.5m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/siberian-carpet-cypress">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/siberian-carpet-cypress</a>

Spruce, Prostrate Norway ( $Picea\ abies$ ) Leaves dark evergreen, prostrate form. Up to 30cm x 200cm wide Up to 0.6m tall x 1.8m wide

https://mygardenlife.com/plant-library/spreading-prostrate-norway-spruce-prostrata-picea-

#### abies

Weigela (*Weigela* spp.) Leaves deciduous green, some stripey green/white, may go orange in fall, flowers light to dark pink, very showy. Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/weigela">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/weigela</a>

Winter creeper Euonymus (*Euonymus fortunei*) Leaves green, some showy patterned green/cream, many varieties some with showy fall colored fruits and leaves. A broadleaf evergreen only marginally hardy in Alberta. Up to 90cm tall x 120cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/euonymus

#### Photos - Best ground-cover shrubs



Bearberry / Kinnikinnick



Bunchberry dogwood



Creeping cotoneaster



'Hillside Creeper' pine



# Top choices for shrub use as hedging

Alpine currant (*Ribes alpinum*) Bright green leaves turn glossy dark in summer, yellow in fall, greenish-yellow un-exciting flowers then become bright red berries. Up to 180cm tall x 180cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/ribes-alpinum

Boxwood, 'Calgary' or 'Green Velvet' (*Buxus* spp.) Evergreen with glossy dak leaves. Up to 120cm tall x 120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/buxus-green-velvet

Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) Green leaves noted for burning red fall color, flowers non-showy greenish, showy purple-red fruits winter long. Up to 3m tall x 3m wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/euonymus

Cedar (Thuja spp.):

Cedar 'Skybound' (*Thuja occidentalis*) Leaves emerald green all year-long, tall upright habit Up to 4m tall x 90cm wide

Cedar Northern White 'Wareana' (*Thuja occidentalis*) Up to 240cm tall x 90cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/thuja-occidentalis">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/thuja-occidentalis</a>

Cherry Prinsepia (*Prinsepia sinensis*) Leaves green, deciduous, soft yellow flowers, showy oblong red berries in fall. Up to 2m tall x 2m wide

https://search.eaglelakenurseries.com/11050003/Plant/331/Cherry Prinsepia/

Common caragana (*Caragana arborescens*) Leaves light to dark green, flowers yellow and fragrant Up to 6m tall x 2m wide

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caragana arborescens

Hedge cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster lucidus*) Leaves dark green, then turn showy purple, red and bronze in fall, profuse red berries last all winter. Up to 3m tall x 3m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/cotoneaster-lucidus">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/cotoneaster-lucidus</a>

Highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*) Leaves glossy, dark green often turn yellow-red or red-purple in fall, showy white clustered flowers, bright red drupes ('berries') look like cranberries Up to 3m tall x 2.5m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/viburnum-trilobum-redwing-american-cranberrybush

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergia*) Leaves blue to blue-green some reddish or purple, flowers pale yellow, berries bright red to orange-red. Up to 60cm tall x 90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/berberis-thunbergii-atropurpurea-nana Lilac, common and hybrid (*Syringa vulgaris*) Leaves deciduous green, flowers white, pink, purple or blue

Up to 5m tall x 4m wide, or even larger in Calgary https://thespruce.com/common-lilac-growing-tips-3269207/

Lilac, Dwarf Korean (*Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin' TG) Leaves deciduous dark green, reddish-bronze in fall, flowers showy and sweetly fragrant, lilac-pink color, dwarf. Up to 70cm tall x 90cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/syringa-baby-kim

Mugo pine (*Pinus mugo*) Example: Variety 'Rosy Glow'. Leaves evergreen, dark green needles, attractive cones. Up to 1.2m tall x 1m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/mugo-pine

'Northern Gold' Forsythia (*Forsythia* x *intermedia*) Leaves green often after flowering, flowers brilliant yellow bushy mass in spring. Up to 240cm tall x 210cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/forsythia-northern-gold

Peking cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster acutifolia*) Leaves dark green, then turn showy purple, red and bronze in fall, profuse red berries last all winter. Up to 30cm tall x 180cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/cotoneaster">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/cotoneaster</a>

Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) Green leaves, clustered flowers delicate white, berries purple-black Up to 2m tall x 1m wide

Willow (Salix spp.) Green leaves, with stems showy in yellow to red colors, many different forms Up to 120cm tall x 50cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/salix-willow

#### Photos - Top choices for shrub use as hedging







Purple Osier willow

# Trees and shrubs with beautiful bark, stem texture and color:

# Trees (T)

- (T) American elm (*Ulmus americana*) Leaves leathery, dark green turn yellow in fall, special bark Up to 25m tall x 21m wide
  - https://www.gardenia.net/plant/ulmus-americana
- (T) Birch (Betula)
  - (T) Paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) Leaves vibrant green, yellow in fall; Flowers are catkins, showy sheet-like bark. Up to 21m tall x 15m wide
    - https://www.gardenia.net/plant/betula-papyrifera-paper-birch
  - (T) River birch (*Betula nigr*a) As above, plus specially colored premium bark. Up to 21m tall x 15m wide
    - https://www.gardenia.net/plant/betula-nigra-heritage-river-birch
- (T) Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) Leaves leathery, dark green, turn yellow to golden brown in fall Up to 25m tall x 25m wide
  - https://www.gardenia.net/plant/quercus-macrocarpa

- (T) Cherry (Prunus):
  - (T) Amur cherry (*Prunus maackii*) Leaves green, white clustered flowers, gold-brown, cinnamon color flaking bark, metallic color in winter with horizontal stripes and dashes, black fruit. Up to 14m tall x 9m wide
    - https://mygardenlife.com/plant-library/amur-cherry-manchurian-cherry-prunus-maackii
  - (T) Pin cherry (Prunus pennsylvanica) Leaves shiny yellow-green, flowers small, white, clustered, fruit bright red cherries, reddish brown bark with horizontal scars Up to 15m tall x 7m wide <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prunus pensylvanica">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prunus pensylvanica</a>
  - (T) Japanese tree lilac 'Ivory Silk' (*Syringa reticulata*) Green leaves, flowers various shades of lilac pink. Up to 9m tall x 6m wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/syringa-reticulata
  - (T) Mountain ash (*Sorbus* spp.) Leaves deciduous green becoming yellow, red or reddish purple in fall, tiny white flowers turn to showy clusters of bright orange-red berries in late summer. Up to 12m tall x 6m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/sorbus-americana">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/sorbus-americana</a>
  - (T) Rocky Mountain Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *glauca*) Leaf needles green to greygreen hug the stem, bark rough, black, showy large cones. Up to 24m tall x 6m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/douglas-fir">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/douglas-fir</a>
  - (T) Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) Leaf needles bundled, dark blue-green, cones light brown Dwarf. Up to 1.2m tall x 1.2m wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/pinus-sylvestris-beuvronensis
  - (T) 'Snowbird' or 'Toba' hawthorn (*Crataegus x mordenensis*) Leaves green, sharp long thorns, flowers profuse, white to pink, small apple like edible fruits called haws. Up to 5m tall x 4m wide

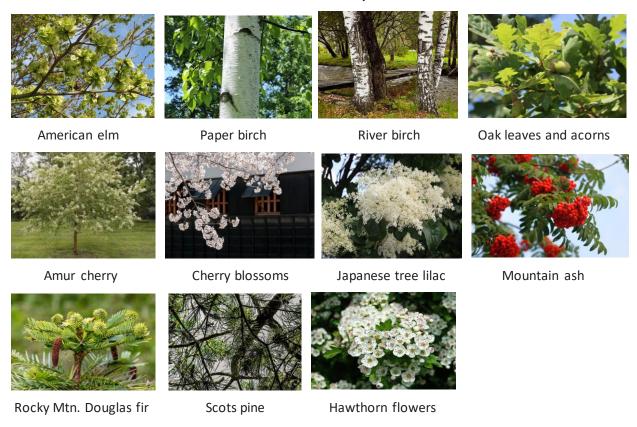
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crataegus %C3%97 mordenensis

#### Shrubs

- Dogwood (*Cornus* spp.) Leaves lush green changing to vibrant red, orange or purple, striking white flowers with white, pink or red surrounds. Up to 3m tall x 2.5m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/cornus-dogwood">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/cornus-dogwood</a>
- Harry Lauder's (H.L) walking stick 'Contorta' (*Corylus avellana*) Leaves dark green, twigs very twisted, ('Twisted Filberts'), flowers become pale yellow catkins. Up to 3m tall x 3m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/corylus-avellana-contorta-harry-lauders-walking-stick">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/corylus-avellana-contorta-harry-lauders-walking-stick</a>
- Ninebark, common (*Physocarpus opulifolius* Leaves deciduous green, red to rose-brown in fall, decorative red-brown peeling bark, flowers white and profuse, glossy red pods Up to 2.5m tall x 2.5m wide
  - https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/ninebark
- Prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*) Leaves dark green, thorny stems, flowers pink, rosehips reddish Up to 90cm tall x 90cm wide
  - https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/rosa-rose
- Purple osier willow (*Salix purpurea*) Leaves green, stems purple, flowers turn into abundant 'pussy willow' like structures. Up to 4.5m tall x 4.5m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/willow">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/willow</a>

'Sutherland' caragana (*Caragana arborescens*) Leaves green, yellow in fall, flowers yellow, brown pods, bronze bark. Up to 5m tall x 2m wide <a href="https://www.calhort.org/plants/sutherland-caragana/">https://www.calhort.org/plants/sutherland-caragana/</a>

# Photos - Trees and shrubs with beautiful bark, stem texture and color



# Photos - Shrubs with beautiful bark, stem texture and color





Purple Osier willow

# Trees and shrubs with the most striking autumn leaf colors

## Trees (T) with Red or Orange Autumn Leaves

#### Maple (Acer):

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/acer-maple

Maple 'Autumn Blaze' (*Acer* x *freemanii*) Leaves green, brilliant orange/red in fall, flowers small, yellow to red. Up to 15m tall x 12m wide

Maple 'Inferno sugar maple' (Acer saccharum) Leaves green, brilliant orange/red in fall, flowers small, yellow to red. Up to 12m tall x 12m wide

Maple Rocky Mountain or Douglas maple (*Acer glabrum* var. *Douglasii*) Leaves green, brilliant orange/red in fall, flowers small, yellow to red. Up to 8m tall x 5m wide

Maple 'Tatarian' (Acer tataricum) Leaves green, brilliant orange/red in fall, flowers small, yellow to red. Up to 5m tall x 4m wide

#### Oak (Quercus):

Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) Leaves leathery dark green, turn yellow to gold-brown in fall Up to 24.5m tall x 24.5m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/quercus-macrocarpa

Northern pin oak ( $Quercus\ ellipsoidalis$ ) Leaves leathery dark green, turn yellow to gold-brown in fall. Up to 21m tall x 10m wide

https://landscapeontario.com/quercus-ellipsoidalis-northern-pin-oak

Northern red oak (*Quecus rubra*) Leaves leathery dark green, turn yellow to gold-brown in fall Up to 21m tall x 21m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/quercus-rubra

Ohio buckeye or horse chestnut (*Aesculus glabra*) Leaves striking shape, turn yellow to orange in fall, flowers striking erect panicles, white to pink, often with yellow or red marks

Up to 12m tall x 12m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/aesculus-glabra

Saskatoon 'Autumn Brilliance' (*Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Autumn Brilliance') Green leaves, clustered flowers delicate white, berries purple-black. Up to 8m tall x 8m wide

https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/amelanchier-grandiflora-autumn-brilliance

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/amelanchier (Does not include Canadian saskatoon)

https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/9780773261013 (Go to More Information, then read the 113pp Berry Production Manual. Has everything you need to know, and more!)

Ussurian pear (*Pyrus ussuriensis*) Leaves glossy dark green, red in fall, flowers white with purple anthers, emerge from pink buds. Up to 10m tall x 7m wide

https://anythinggrowsalberta.com/shop/ussurian-pear-trees-shrubs-sun/

# Trees (T) with Yellow Autumn Leaves

- Amur cherry (*Prunus maackii*) Leaves green, yellow in fall, flowers creamy white, black fruit Up to 14m tall x 4m wide
  - https://fourseasonsnursery.ca/shop/p/amur-cherry
- Amur cork (*Phellodendron amurense*) Leaves dark glossy green turning yellow, late to leaf out in spring, interesting corky bark . Up to 20m tall x 10m wide
  - https://www.ualberta.ca/the-quad/2019/07/fantastic-trees-and-where-to-find-them.html
- Beaked hazelnut (*Coylus cornata*) Green leaves, clustered flowers, delicate white, berries purple- black Up to 2.5m tall x 2m wide
- https://www.hardyfruittrees.ca/produit/nut-trees-grown-in-canada/beaked-hazelnut-corylus-cornuta/
- Hawthorn 'Snowbird and 'Toba' (*Craetaegus x mordenensis*) Leaves green, stem very spiny, flowers white, scented blossom, fruits dark red berries. Up to 7m tall x 7m wide <a href="https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/trees/treeinfo/snowbird-hawthorn">https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/trees/treeinfo/snowbird-hawthorn</a>
- Larch (Larix spp.) Leaves deciduous, conifer, showy yellow in fall. Up to 12m tall x 4.5m wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/larch
- 'Mancana' Manchurian ash (*Fraxinus mandshurica*) Leaves green, showy yellow to red-orange in fall Up to 20m tall x 12m wide
- https://gardening.usask.ca/articles-and-lists/articles-plant-descriptions/trees/manchurian-

#### ash.php

- Poplar (*Populus* spp.) American aspen, leaves dark green, gold-yellow in fall, make rustling noise in wind, sometimes called quaking aspen, some poplars columnar. Up to 15m tall x 9m wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/aspen
- 'Silver Cloud' silver maple (*Acer sacccharinum*) Leaves green, silvery underside, pale yellow to orange in fall, can produce maple sugar sap. Up to 20m tall x 10m wide <a href="https://gardening.usask.ca/articles-and-lists/articles-plant-descriptions/trees/silver-maple.php">https://gardening.usask.ca/articles-and-lists/articles-plant-descriptions/trees/silver-maple.php</a>

# Shrubs with Red or Orange autumn leaves

- Autumn magic black chokecherry (*Aronia melanocarpa* 'Autumn Magic') Leaves green turn snowy purple-red, flowers clustered pinkish-white, showy bunched black berries. Up to 2m tall x 1m wide
  - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aronia melanocarpa
- Burning bush 'Turkistanica' (*Euonymus nanus* 'Turkistanicus') Leaves lush green then spectacular scarlet red in fall, flowers greenish, become purplish-red fruits. Up to 60cm tall x 75m wide https://search.eaglelakenurseries.com/11050003/Plant/145/Turkestan Burning Bush/
- Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster* spp.) Leaves dark green, then turn showy purple, red and bronze in fall, profuse red berries last all winter. Up to 3m tall x 3m wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/cotoneaster

Saskatoon 'Autumn Brilliance' (*Amelanchier* x *grandiflora* 'Autumn Brillance') Green leaves, clustered flowers delicate white, berries purple-black.0 Up to 4.5m tall x 4.5m wide

https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/amelanchier-grandiflora-autumn-brilliance https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/amelanchier (But no reference to Canadian saskatoon)

https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/9780773261013 (Go to More Information, then read the 113pp Berry Production Manual. Has everything you need to know, and more!)

Smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*) Leaves fern-like deep green, turn brilliant red or orange in fall, green-yellow flowers, fruiting clusters turn dark red during winter. Up to 4.5m tall x 4.5m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rhus-glabra">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rhus-glabra</a>

Viburnum (*Viburnum* spp.) Green leaves turning reddish in fall, showy flowers, fragrant, white but sometimes pink. Up to 14.2m x 4m wide Example: 'Nannyberry' variety grows well in Calgary <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/vibirnum">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/vibirnum</a>

#### Photos - Trees (T) with striking Red or Orange Autumn Leaves



#### Photos - Trees (T) with Yellow autumn leaf color



# Photos - Shrubs with striking Red or Orange Autumn Leaves



Please scroll down!

# <u>Trees (T) with show-stopping flower displays +/- fragrant\* flowers)</u> (\* Indicates species has fragrant flowers)

(T) Apple and crabapple (*Malus* spp.) Green leaves, flowers white to pink, edible fruits. Up to 6m tall x 6m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/malus-apple

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/malus-crabapple

(T) Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.) Leaves green, stem very spiny, flowers white or pink, scented blossom, fruits dark red berries. Up to 7.5m tall x 7.5m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/hawthorn

(T) Honey locust (*Gleditsia tricanthus*) Leaves bright green, flowers scented, cream color. Up to 24.5m tall x 24.5m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/honey-locust

(T) Linden (*Tillia* spp.) Green leaves, flowers fragrant, pale yellow, early summer bloom. Up to 24m tall x 15m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/linden

- (T) Mountain ash (*Sorbus* spp.) Leaves dark green, grey-green undersides, some spp. with good fall color, orange-brown or reddish purple, flowers tiny and white in clusters, form showy orange-red clusters. A very showy species! Up to 9m tall x 9m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/sorbus-americana">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/sorbus-americana</a>
- (T) Prunus (*Prunus\** spp.) Especially mayday, chokecherry, flowering almond, pin cherry, sand cherry and plum; Green leaves, profusion of flowers on all types, white to pink, edible fruits. Up to 10m tall x 7.6m wide

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prunus\_padus#:~:text=Prunus%20padus%2C%20known%20as%20bird,metres%20(52%20ft)%20tall.

(T) Saskatoon (*Amelanchier* spp.) Green leaves, flowers in clusters, snow white. Berries purplish black Up to 9.0m tall x 46.0m wide

https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/amelanchier-grandiflora-autumn-brilliance https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/amelanchier(NB Does not have Canadian saskatoon) https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/9780773261013 (Go to More Information, then read the 113pp Berry Production Manual. Has everything you need to know, and more!)

(T) Ussurian pear (*Pyrus ussuriensis*) Leaves glossy dark green, flowers white with purple anthers, emerge from pink buds. Up to 10m tall x 7.5m wide

https://www.hardyfruittrees.ca/produit/pear-tree/pyrus-ussuriensis-siberian-pear-harbin-manchurian/

### Photos - Trees (T) with show-stopping flower displays +/- fragrant\* flowers









Apple Crabapple

Hawthorn

Honey locust









Linden

Mountain ash

Prunus - cherry tree

Saskatoo

Source: http://plants.spruceitupgardencentre.com/



Ussurian pear, flowering

# Shrubs with show-stopping flower displays +/- fragrant\* flowers

# (\* Indicates species has fragrant flowers)

Forsythia (*Forsythia* spp.) Bright green leaves, bright yellow flowers. Up to 24m tall x 2m wide Example: 'Northern Gold' variety in Calgary https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/forsythia

Golden currant (*Ribes aurium*)\* Green maple-like leaves, gold/yellow flowers orange to violet with age, fruits amber yellow to glossy black berries depending on variety. Up to 2.5m tall x 2.5m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/golden-currant">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/golden-currant</a>

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.)\* Shrub and vine forms are both locally well adapted in Edmonton. Green leaves, flowers yellow, pink or orangish. Up to 6m tall x 180cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/lonicera-honeysuckle">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/lonicera-honeysuckle</a>

Hydrangea (*Hydrangea* spp.)\* Green leaves, flowers white, pink, blue or purple (Blue in acidic soils < pH 5.5), pink in alkaline soils > pH 6.5) Up to 150cm tall x 180cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/hydrangea

Lilac (*Syringa* spp.)\* Green leaves, many different colors: White, cream, rose, magenta, pinkish-purple, lavender, and purple. Up to 5m tall x 4m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/syringa-lilac">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/syringa-lilac</a>

Lydia broom (*Genista lydia*) Green leaves, flowers yellow. Up to 60cm tall x 2m wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/genista-lydia-bangle-lydian-broom

Mock orange (*Philadelphus* spp.)\* Green leaves, flowers white. Up to 2.4m tall x 300cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/philadelphus-mock-orange">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/philadelphus-mock-orange</a>

Ninebark (*Physocarpus* spp.) Leaves may be green, purple, yellowish or burgundy, white flowers become clusters of red-pink capsules that last all winter. Has a characteristic peeling bark Up to 240cm tall x 180cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/physocarpus-ninebark

Potentilla, Bush cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*) Green leaves, bright yellow flowers. Up to 90cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/potentilla-cinquefoil

Rhododendron (*Rhododendron* spp.) Green leaves, flowers white, yellow, pink, scarlet, purple or blue Up to 120cm tall x 120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/guide/hardiest-azaleas-and-rhododendrons

Saskatoon (*Amelanchier* spp.) Green leaves, flowers in clusters, snow white. Berries purplish black Up to 9m tall x 6m wide

<a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/amelanchier">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/amelanchier</a> (But does <a href="https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/9780773261013">not include Saskatoon</a>)
 <a href="https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/9780773261013">https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/9780773261013</a> (Go to <a href="https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/9780773261013">More Information</a>, then read the 113pp Berry Production Manual. Has everything you need to know, and more!)

Spiraea (*Spiraea* spp). Leaves green when new, then orange-red in fall, flowers white, pink, crimson, purple, or red. Up to 120cm tall x 120cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/spiraea-spiraea

Viburnum (Viburnum spp.)\* Green leaves, flowers primarily creamy white, varying from white to pink. Flower scent varies from sweetly fragrant to unpleasant. Cranberry varieties have edible red berries. Up to 4.2m tall x 4m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/viburnum

Weigela (*Weigela* spp.) Green leaves, flowers pink, red, white or yellow. Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/weigela

#### Photos - Shrubs with show-stopping flower displays +/- fragrant flowers







Viburnum

Weigela

#### **Other Shrubs**

Barberry (Berberis thunbergia 'Cherry Bomb') Up to 120cm tall x 150 wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/berberis-barberry

Barberry, Japanese (Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea 'Rose Glow') 120cm tall x 150 wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/berberis-thunbergii-atropurpurea-rose-glow

Emerald Carousel Barberry (Berberis thunbergiai 'Tara') 120cm tall x 150 wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/berberis-barberry

Jade Carousel Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii* 'Bailgreen') 120cm tall x 150 wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/berberis-barberry

Paxistima (*Paxistima canbyi* 'Cliff Green') 25cm high x 1.5m wide spreading https://garden.org/plants/view/83786/Cliff-Green-Paxistima-canbyi/

Ruby Carousel Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii* 'Bailone') 120cm tall x 150 wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/berberis-barberry

Rose Daphne (*Daphne cneorum*) 15-30 cm tall x 60 -90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/daphne-cneorum

Sunsation Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii* 'Toonry') 30-60cm x 60 – 90 wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/berberis-barberry

Gooseberry (Ribes uva-crispa) 60 -150cm tall x 90 - 180cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/gooseberry

#### **Other Shrubs: Photos**



Joanna Redesik





Barberry

Japanese Barberry

**Emerald Carousel Barberry** 

Jade Carousel Barberry









**Paxistima** 

**Ruby Carousel Barberry** 

Rose Daphne

**Sunsation Barberry** 

Pixabay.com



Gooseberry

## Roses – Hardy Roses and Shrub Roses

(NB Click the species/variety URL to view a photo of each rose variety)

Alberta rose (Rosa articularis 'Prickly Rose') 1-2m high, spreading to 3-5m https://www.awes-ab.ca/species/prickly-rose/

Blanc de Coubert Rose (Rosa rugosa 'Blanc de Coubert') 120-150cm tall x 90-150cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rosa-rugosa-blanc-double-de-coubert

F. J. Grootendorst Rose (Rosa rugosa 'F. J. Grootendorst') 1m x 1m wide 1m tall x 1m wide https://www.gardenista.com/products/rose-f-j-grootendorst-hybrid-rugosa/

Hansa Rose (Rosa rugosa 'Hansa') 2m tall x 2m wide

https://canadiantreenursery.com/products/rosa-hansa-rose-shrub

Persian Yellow Rose (Rosa foetida 'Persian Yellow') 1.5m tall x 1.5m wide https://mordennurseries.com/product/rose-persian-yellow

Pink Grootendorst Rose (Rosa rugosa 'Pink Grootendorst') 2m tall x 1.5m wide https://halifaxperennials.ca/product/pink-grootendorst-rose/

Red-leaf Rose (Rosa rubrifolia = R. glauca = R. ferruginea) 180-240cm tall x 150 -210 cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rosa-glauca-redleaf-rose

Topaz Jewel Rose (Rosa rugosa 'Topaz Jewel') 1.5m tall x 1.2m wide https://canadiantreenursery.com/products/rosa-topaz-jewel-rose

Woods Rose = Western Wild Rose (Rosa woodsii) 90 − 180 cm tall x 90 − 180cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rosa-woodsii

## **Good Compact Deciduous Trees and Conifers, suitable for Small Gardens:**

## **Compact Deciduous Trees:**

#### Birch (Betula):

Dakota Pinnacle birch 'Fargo' (*B. platyphilla*) Leaves vibrant green, yellow in fall; Flowers become catkins, showy sheet-like bark. Up to 7.6m tall x 3.1m wide <a href="https://www.agriforestbiotech.com/product/dakota-pinnacle-birch/">https://www.agriforestbiotech.com/product/dakota-pinnacle-birch/</a>

Parkland Pillar birch 'Jefpark' (B. platyphilla) Up to 7.6 tall x 2.1m wide

https://plants.canadale.ca/11110004/Plant/18264/Parkland Pillar Japanese White Birch /

Japanese white birch (B. platyphylla) 9-12m high x 4-7m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/betula-platyphylla-japanese-white-birch

Young's weeping birch 'Youngii' (*B. platyphilla*) As above, weeping tree form. Dwarf version also exists. Up to 4m tall x 4m wide

https://www.calhort.org/plants/youngs-weeping-birch/

#### Crabapple (Malus):

'Emerald Spire' flowering crabapple (*M.* x 'Jefgreen') Leaves deciduous, flowers very showy, white, pink, or deep red depending on the variety. Up to 3m tall x 240cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/malus-crabapple">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/malus-crabapple</a>

'Purple Spire' flowering crabapple (*M.* x 'Jefspire') 4.5m tall x 2m wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/malus-crabapple

'Rosthern' flowering crabapple (*M.* x 'Rosthern') 4m tall x 2m wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/malus-crabapple

#### Lilac (Syringa):

Dwarf Korean lilac, top grafted (*S.meyeri* 'Palibin' TG)\* Green leaves, many different colors: White, cream, rose, magenta, pinkish-purple, lavender, or purple. Up to 1.5m tall x 2m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/syringa-meyeri-palibin-lilac

'Ivory Silk' lilac (S. reticulata) Up to 6m tall x 4.2m wide

https://bluegrassnursery.com/product/ivory-silk-lilac

'Miss Kim' TG lilac (top grafted) (S. patula) Up to 2.5m tall x 2m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/syringa-baby-kim

#### Mountain ash (Sorbus):

Luxor pyramidal mountain ash 'Fastigiata' (*S. aucuparia*) Leaves dark green, deciduous, flowers clustered, tiny and white, showy bright orange-red berries. Up to 12.2m tall x 6.1m wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/sorbus-aucuparia

'Red Cascade' mountain ash (*S. americana*) Up to 9m tall x 9m wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/sorbus-americana

#### Oak (Quercus):

'Regal Prince' oak (*Quercus* x *warei*) Leaves dark and green, flowers yellow-green catkins, then acorns. Up to 24.4m tall x 24.4m wide

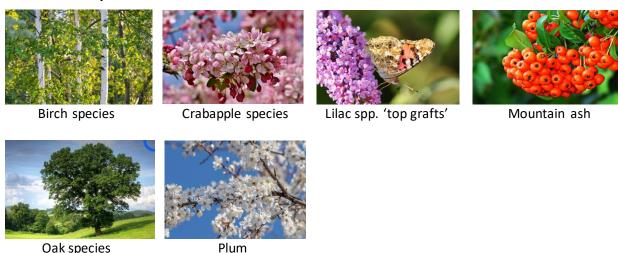
https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/quercus-oak

#### Plum (Prunus):

Muckle plum (*P.* x *nigrella*) Leaves dark green turn yellow in fall, flowers hot-pink. Flowers are sterile and therefore fruitless. Up to 3.5m tall x 3m wide https://canadiantreenursery.com/products/copy-of-prunus-sunstar-mayday-tree

'Princess Kay' plum (*P. nigra*) Leaves dark green turning outstanding yellow in fall, silvery bark, flowers double, white. Up to 5.5m tall x 5.5m wide https://plantselect.org/plant/prunus-nigra-princess-kay/

#### **Photos – Compact Deciduous Trees**



# **Compact Conifers:**

Fir (Abies), juniper (Juniperus) and pine (Pinus):

Dwarf balsam fir 'Nana' (*Abies balsamea*) Rounded aromatic dwarf bush, leaves are lime green emerging, then silvery-green. Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/abies-balsamea-hudsonia-group-nana

Upright junipers 'Cologreen, 'Medora', 'Moonglow' and "Wichita Blue' (Juniperus scopulorum)

Blue-green leaves all year, slow growing. Up to 4.5m tall x 1.8m wide

<a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/juniperus-scopulorum-wichita-blue">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/juniperus-scopulorum-wichita-blue</a>

Columnar white pine 'Fastigiata' (*Pinus strobus*) Tall and narrow, soft blue-green foliage Up to 12m tall x 1m wide

<u>https://nurseryguide.com/find\_plants/pinus\_strobus\_fastigiata</u> (NB Oregon information)
Spruce (Picea):

Columnar blue spruce 'Fastigiata' (*Pinus pungens*) Not as tall as other blue spruces, columnar shape, not wide. Up to 6m tall x 1m wide

https://zebralandscaping.ca/product/columnar-blue-spruce/

Columnar Norway spruce 'Cupressina' (*Pinus pungens*) Tall but narrow. Up to 7.6m tall x 180cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/picea-abies-cupressina

Globe spruce (*Pinus pungens* 'Globosa' tree form) Dwarf pyramid shape, silvery-green in spring, becomes more blueish. Up to 150cm tall x 180cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/picea-pungens-globosa">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/picea-pungens-globosa</a>

'Montgomery' blue spruce (*P. pungens*) Blue appearance, compact, densely rounded, slow growing. Up to 15m tall x 5m wide https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue spruce

Weeping Norway spruce 'Pendula' (*P. abies*) Low growing form, trails outwards with dark green needles, and creeps very well over walls. Up to 6m tall x 120cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/picea-abies-inversa">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/picea-abies-inversa</a>

Weeping white spruce 'Pendula' (*P. glauca*) Distinct pyramidal shape, but grows upright, with blue-green soft looking needles Up to 12m tall x 2.5m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/picea-glauca-pendula">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/picea-glauca-pendula</a>

#### **Photos - Compact Conifers**



# **Some more Trees and Shrubs**

Juniper (Juniperus):

'Blue Arrow' juniper (*J. scopulorum*) Narrow, upright. Up to 4.5m tall x 0.6m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/juniperus-scopulorum-blue-arrow-rocky-mountain-">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/juniperus-scopulorum-blue-arrow-rocky-mountain-</a>

#### juniper

'Chinese' juniper (*J. chinensis*) Bushy tree, conical. Up to 20m tall x 6m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/juniperus-chinensis-stricta">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/juniperus-chinensis-stricta</a>

'Wichitau' Blue juniper (J. scopulorum) 4m x 2 m

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/juniperus-scopulorum-wichita-blue

'Cologreen' juniper (*J. scopulorum*) Dense, narrow, soft texture foliage. Up to 6m tall x 1.5m wide

https://www.goldenacre.ca/shop-all-departments

Common' juniper (*J. communis*) Upright columnar form, forms soft silvery lines in yellow-green foliage, blue-green in winter, powder blue berries. Up to 2m tall x 1.5m wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/juniperus-communis-compressa">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/juniperus-communis-compressa</a>

Dwarf pencil point juniper 'Compressa' (*J. communis*) Up to 1.5m tall x 0.5m wide, narrow, columnar, blue-green

https://plantcentral.ca/juniper-pencil-point/

Eastern red cedar (*J. virginiana*) Pyramidal shape when young, then variable form mostly with columnar top. Wide base, narrow top. Up to 12m tall x 27m tall <a href="https://treetime.ca/compare.php?pcids=97-466">https://treetime.ca/compare.php?pcids=97-466</a>

'Mint Julep' juniper (*J. chinensis*) Spreading form, fills out to ground. Up to 1.5m tall x 2.5m wide https://plantcentral.ca/juniper/mint-julep-juniper/

'Medora' juniper (*J. scopulorum*) Pyramidal shape, leggy (clears ground by 60cm). Up to 4m tall x 3m wide

https://gardengirl.ca/products/copy-of-juniper-medora-5-gallon

'Moonglow' juniper (*J. scopulorum*) Pyramidal shape, leggy (clears ground by 1m) Up to 5m tall x 2m wide

https://plants.glasshousenursery.ca/11110005/Plant/906/Moonglow Juniper/

Rocky Mountain juniper (*J. scopulorum*) Try 'Sky Rocket' or Wichita Blue'. Pyramidal shape, soft textured blue-green needles. Up to 15m tall x 14.5m wide

https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/documents/treebook/rockymountainjuniper.htm

#### Pine (Pinus):

'Chalet' Swiss stone pine (*P. cembra* 'Chalet') Up to 3.5m tall x 1.5m wide. Dense, narrow, conical form with stunning blue and green needles

https://plantcentral.ca/rare-unusal-collectors/chalet-swiss-stone-pine/

Columnar eastern white pine 'Fastigiata' (*P. strobus*) Up to 25m tall x 15m wide. Attractive, narrow and columnar, with silky smooth long needles. Can grow very large <a href="https://www.gardentap.ca/products/pinus-strobus-fastigiata-columnar-white-pine?srsltid=AfmBOogl-SLbHOUPIGYZ9v">https://www.gardentap.ca/products/pinus-strobus-fastigiata-columnar-white-pine?srsltid=AfmBOogl-SLbHOUPIGYZ9v</a> tNWQR3TNW-idnRtc2tns5LjDC9tPdCv7z

Columnar mugo pine 'Columnaris' (*P. mugo*) Up to 3.5m tall x 1.5m spread, goes to ground level. A very narrow upright mugo pine, perfect for tight landscape spaces, orangish bark

https://plants.parklandgc.ca/11050011/Plant/5223/Columnar Mugo Pine

Columnar Scot's pine 'Fastigiata' (*P. sylvestris*) Up to 6m tall x 2m wide, 1m gap to ground, orange-ish bark

https://foothillsnurseries.com/product/columnar-scotch-pine/

Eastern white pine (*P. strobus*) 30m tall x 9m wide, 2m gap to ground. Very large tree, known for long flexible blue-green needles

https://www.thespruce.com/eastern-white-pine-trees-4125586

'Green Penguin' dwarf Scot's pine (*P. sylvestris*) Up to 1.5m tall x 0.5m wide, rich green needles https://plantcentral.ca/shop-all/green-penguin-scotch-pine/

Mugo pine (*P. mugo*) Up to 7.6m tall x 2.5m wide. Dense, multi-stemmed ,evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/mugo-pine

Scot's pine (*P. sylvestris*) Up to 15m tall x 7.5m wide. Showy orange bark when mature, dense pyramid form, turns into roundish shape over time <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/pinus-sylvestris-beuvronensis">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/pinus-sylvestris-beuvronensis</a>

'Silver Whispers' Swiss stone pine (*P. cembra* 'Silver Whispers') Up to 3.5m tall x 2m wide. White stripy dark green needles look silvery. Cones are long and violet-blue

https://plants.gardenworks.ca/11190002/Plant/5231/Silver Whispers Swiss Stone Pine/

'Tip Top' Swiss stone pine (*P. cembra* 'Tip Top') Up to 4.5m tall x 4.5m-6m wide. Rare variety, columnar, silver-blue needles

https://plantlust.com/plants/31085/pinus-cembra-tip-top/

## Spruce (Picea):

Blue spruce 'Fastigiata' Columnar form (*P. pungens*) Up to 33m tall x 5m wide. Form has bright blue needles on a narrow upright column with forking branches

https://plants.satellitegardens.ca/11110006/Plant/1973/Upright Colorado Spruc

'Blue Wonder' dwarf Alberta spruce (*P. glauca*) Up to 2m tall x 1.2m wide. Showy gray-blue foliage

https://treeland.ca/best-evergreen-trees-small-gardens/

Dwarf Serbian spruce 'Nana' (*P. omorika*) Up to 2m tall x 1.5m dwarf form, unusual globe shape, needles light green in spring, dark green with silver underside all winter https://beyondtheho.use.ca/products/spruce-dwarf-serbian

White spruce (*P. glauca*) Up to 15m tall x 6m wide. The most hardy spruce spp. Blue-green needles, fills down to ground

https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/library/documents/treebook/whitespruce.htm

#### Some more Trees and Shrubs; Photos









Juniper berries

Pine in winter

Spruce cones

**Russian Cypress** 

# What are some fast-growing tree cultivars for the Prairies?

American elm (*Ulmus americana*) Up to 25m tall x 15m wide with vase shape and overhead arches on a street. Dark green leaves turn gold in fall

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/ulmus-americana

#### Birch (Betula):

Birch – Paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) Up to 12m tall x 8m wide. Snow white peeling (canoe) bark, leaves dark green change to gold in fall

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/betula-papyrifera-paper-birch

Birch – River birch (*Betula nigra*) Up to 18m tall x 18m wide. Round shape, showy peeling white, brown and tan bark, forms chartreuse catkins

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/betula-nigra-river-birch

Columnar aspen (*Populus tremula* 'Swedish') Up to 12m tall x 2m wide, narrow, tight columnar form, spring bronze leaves turn green then yellow in fall <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/populus-tremuloides">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/populus-tremuloides</a>

Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*) Up to 15m tall x 6m wide, loose open pyramidal form, Alberta's Provincial Tree

https://www.awes-ab.ca/species/lodgepole-pine/

Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) Up to 15m tall x 12m wide, profuse showy yellow flowers early spring, dark green leaves turn showy yellow in fall

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/acer-platanoides

Norway spruce (*Picea abies*, many cultivars). Regular type up to 15 - 23m tall x 9m - 15m wide. Weeping and dwarf varieties available

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/picea-abies

Poplar spp. especially 'Prairie Sky" (*Populus x canadensis*) Up to 18m x 6m wide. Large green leaves turn showy yellow in fall. Fast growing. No 'cotton seeds' fluff!

https://www.greeningcanadianlandscape.ca/tree-species-selector/central-canada-tree-species/tree-species-selector-alberta/~3193-Populus-x-canadensis

Siberian larch (*Larix sibirica*) Up to 15m tall x 6m wide, deciduous conifer, horizontal branches, light green leaves in spring turn showy yellow and then shed in the fall. Also called Tamarack <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larix sibirica">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larix sibirica</a>

Willow (Salix):

Willow - laurel leaf (Salix pentandra) Up to 12m tall x 9m wide, fast growing, glossy dark green leaves turn yellow in fall

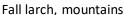
https://gardenscents.ca/product/laurel-leaf-willow/

Willow – 'Golden Ness' (*Salix alba* var. *vitellina*) Up to 2 - 9m tall x 1.5 - 7.5m wide. Often found as multi-stemmed shrub. Can grow 2-3m in one season. Leaves go yellow in fall, revealing winter long yellow stems all winter after they drop <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/salix-alba-var-vitellina-golden-ness-willow">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/salix-alba-var-vitellina-golden-ness-willow</a>

#### Photos - What are some fast-growing tree cultivars for the Prairies?









Willow, laurel leaf



Willow, Salix alba

## Large trees for large areas, to provide cooling shade and enhanced aesthetics

Brandon elm 'Brandon' (Ulmus americana) Up to 15m tall x 10m wide at top

https://www.greeningcanadianlandscape.ca/tree-species-selector/central-canada-tree-

species/tree-species-selector-alberta/~3313-Ulmus-americana

Bur oak (Quercus macrocarpa) Up to 30m tall x 30m wide at top

https://prairiegardens.org/shop/tree-nursery/ornamental-trees-tree-nursery/bur-oak/

Cutleaf weeping birch 'Laciniata' (Betula pendula) Up to 12m tall x 6m wide

https://treetime.ca/productsList.php?pcid=60&tagid=36

Dropmore linden 'Dropmore' (*Tilia* x *flaviscens*) Up to 12m tall x 7m wide. Tall shade tree, pyramidal open form, clusters of fragrant yellow flowers early summer, green leaves yellow in fall

https://www.greeningcanadianlandscape.ca/tree-species-selector/central-canada-tree-

species/tree-species-selector-alberta/~3311-Tilia-x-flavescens

Green ash: Choose male cultivar such as 'Patmore' (*Fraxinus pensylvannica*) Up to 15-21m tall x 10-15m wide. Leafs out late and loses leaves early. Male choice prevents prolific self-sowing of seeds https://www.calhort.org/plants/green-ash/

Laurel leaf willow (Salix pentandra) Up to 12m tall x 12m wide

https://countrysidegardencentre.com/product/willow-laurel-leaf/

Mayday (Prunus padus) Up to 11m tall x 8m wide

https://floweryprose.com/2012/05/20/sunday-spotlight-mayday/

Northern hackberry (Celtis occidentalis) Up to 25m tall x 8m wide

https://www.greeningcanadianlandscape.ca/tree-species-selector/central-canada-tree-

species/tree-species-selector-alberta/~3069-Celtis-occidentalis

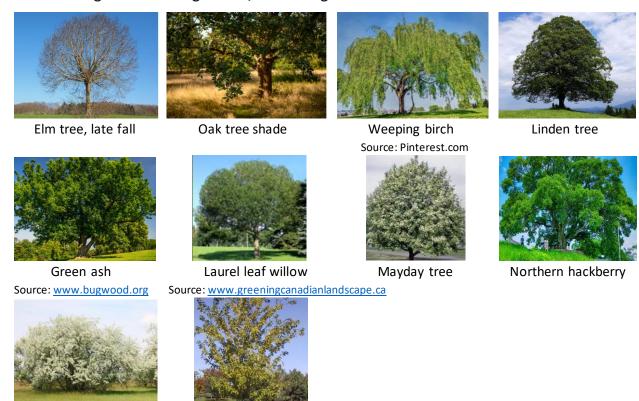
Russian olive (Elaeagnus angustifolia) Up to 9m tall x 6m wide

https://plants.parklandgc.ca/11050011/Plant/137/Russian Olive

Silver maple 'Silver Cloud' (Acer saccharinum 'Silver Cloud') Up to 15m tall x 9m wide

https://www.greeningcanadianlandscape.ca/tree-species-selector/central-canada-tree-species/tree-species-selector-alberta/~3021-Acer-saccharinum

#### Photos - Large trees for large areas, for cooling shade and enhanced aesthetics



# **END OF RECOMMENDED 'TREES AND SHRUBS' SECTION**

# **HALL OF FAME 'PERENNIALS'**

# **Outstanding native plants**

Russian olive

Blanket flowers (Gallardia spp.) Bushy Up to 0.5m x 0.5m spread

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/blanket-flower

'Silver Cloud' maple

Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum*) Up to 40cm tall x 10cm wide Long bloom time Has seeds and rhizomes to spread itself

https://www.wildaboutflowers.ca/plant\_detail.php?Blue-Eyed-Grass-85

Blue flax (Linum lewisii) Up to 1m tall x 0.8m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/linum-flax

Brown-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia triloba) Up to 120cm tall x 60 cm wide. Showy for cut flowers

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/rudbeckia-triloba-blackjack-gold

Crowfoot violet (Viola pedatifida) Up to 20cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/viola-violet

Dotted blazing star (Liatris punctata) Up to 60cm tall x 30 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/liatris-punctata

Early blue violet (Viola adunca) Up to 20cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/viola-violet?page=1

False sunflower ( $Heliopsis\ helianthoides\ var.\ scabra$ ) Up to 120cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/heliopsis-helianthoides-var-scabra-burning-hearts

Fleabane or streamside or smooth fleabane (*Erigerigon glabellus var. pubescens*) Up to 60cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/erigeron-fleabane

Harebell (Campanula rotundifolia) Up to 60cm tall x 30 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/harebell

Marsh marigold (Caltha palustris) Up to 60cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/marsh-marigold

Showy milkweed (Asclepias speciosa) Up to 120cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/asclepias-speciosa

Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) Up to 120cm tall x 30 cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/asclepias-syriaca

Swamp milkweed (Asclepias incarnata) Up to 150cm tall x 90 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/asclepias-incarnata-swamp-milkweed

Butterfly milkweed (Asclepias tuberosa) Up to 60cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/asclepias-tuberosa-butterfly-weed

Mountain shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*) Up to 60cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/shooting-star

Marginal wood fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*) Up to 60cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/dryopteris-marginalis

Narrow-leaved cone flower (*Echinacea angustifolia*) Up to 60cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/echinacea-coneflower

Ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) Up to 180cm tall x 120 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/matteuccia-struthiopteris-ostrich-fern

Pearly everlasting (Anaphalis margaritacea) Up to 90cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/anaphalis-margaritacea-pearly-everlasting

Prairie crocus (Pulsatilla nuttalliana) Up to 30cm tall x 30 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/pulsatilla-pasque-flower

Prairie smoke (Geum triflorum) Up to 60cm tall x 30 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/geum-triflorum-prairie-smoke

Silvery lupin (Lupinus argenteus) Up to 90cm tall x 30 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lupinus-argenteus

Star-flowered false Solomon's seal (Maianthemum racemosum) Up to 90cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/maianthemum-racemosum-false-spikenard

Tall bluebells (Mertensia paniculata) Up to 60cm tall x 40cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/mertensia-paniculata

Wild bergamot (Monarda fistulosa) Up to 30cm tall x 30 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/bergamot

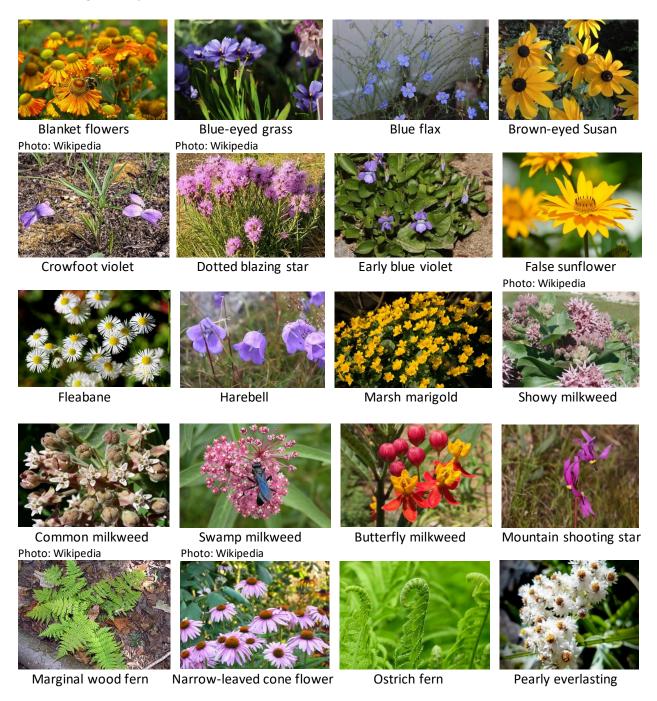
Wild columbine (Aquilegia canadensis) Up to 90cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/aquilegia-canadensis-canadian-columbine

Wild ginger (Asarum canadense) Up to 30cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/wild-ginger

## **Outstanding native plants: Photos**





Prairie crocus



Prairie smoke



Silvery lupin



Star-flowered false Solomon's seal





Tall bluebells



Wild bergamot



Wild columbine



Wild ginger

# Perennials that are tops for foliage color, other than green

Artemesia (Artemesia spp.) Silvery. Up to 15cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/artemisia

Astilbes(Astilbe spp.) White, cream, pink or red. Up to 90cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/astilbe

Beardtongue 'Hunter Red' (*Penstemon* spp.) Red stems and red/purple foliage. Up to 120cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/penstemon-beardtongue

Brunnera, or Siberian bugloss, or Great forget-me-not (*Brunnera macrophylla*) Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide; 'Jack Frost', 'Dawson's White' or 'Hadspen Cream'. Dark green foliage. (*Brunnera macrophlla*) variegated leaves.

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/brunnera-siberian-bugloss

Bugbanes (*Actaea racemosa* and *A. simplex*) Deep purple or bronze leaves. Up to 90cm tall x 90cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/actaea-baneberry">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/actaea-baneberry</a>

Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*) Glossy purple and olive-green foliage. Up to 15cm tall x 25cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/ajuga-carpet-bugle">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/ajuga-carpet-bugle</a>

Coral bells (*Heuchera* spp.) Dark purple, to chartreuse and other colors. Up to 90cm tall x 60cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/heuchera-coral-bells">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/heuchera-coral-bells</a>

Euphorbias (*Euphorbia* spp.) Yellow bracts. Up to 45cm tall x 90cm wide <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euphorbia">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euphorbia</a> epithymoides

False lamium or yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) Variegated silver and green. Up to 20cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lamium-galeobdolon

Foaming bells (x between Heucherella and Tirella) Many colors available. Up to 30cm tall x 30cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/foam-flower

Golden Japanese spikenard 'Sun King' (*Aralia cordata*) Golden leaves. Up to 30cm tall x 30cm wide <a href="https://northerngardener.org/plant-profile-sun-king-japanese-spikenard/">https://northerngardener.org/plant-profile-sun-king-japanese-spikenard/</a>

Hosta (*Hosta* spp.) Many different bright colors available, many variegated. Up to 60cm tall x 180cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/hosta-plantain-lily

Lamb's ears (*Stachys byzantine*) Soft silver-grey woolly texture. Up to 20cm tall x 60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/stachys-byzantina-silver-carpet-lambs-ears

Lungworts (*Pulmonaria* spp.) Pink to blue bells in spring. Up to 30cm tall x 60 cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/pulmonaria-lungwort

Snow-in-summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*) White flowers + fuzzy silver-grey foliage. Up to 30cm tall x 60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/cerastium-tomentosum-snow-in-summer

Stonecrops (*Sedum* spp. and *Hylotelephium* spp.) Deep purples to deep reds. Up to 90cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/stonecrop

#### Perennials that are tops for color, other than green: Photos











Lamb's ears Lungworts Snow-in-summer Stonecrops

# Perennials recommended for rock gardens

Alpine aster (*Aster alpinus*) Up to 90cm tall x 60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/aster-alpinus

Alpine cinquefoil (*Potentilla neumanniana* 'Nana') Up to 13cm tall x 30cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/potentilla-cinquefoil?page=1

Alpine rock jasmine (*Androsace chamaejasme*) Up to 10cm tall x spreading form https://www.wildaboutflowers.ca/plant\_detail.php?Alpine-Rock-Jasmine-98

Alpine rock thyme (Acinos alpinus) Up to 15cm tall x 30cm wide

https://garden.org/plants/view/124616/Alpine-Basil-Thyme-Acinos-alpinus/

Alumroots (*Heuchera* spp. Choose *H. richardsonii* or *H. parviflora*) Up to 60cm tall x 60 cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/alum-root">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/alum-root</a>

Bellflowers (*Campanula* spp.; Choose *C. saxifraga, C. turczaninowii*) Up to 15cm tall x 60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/campanula-bellflower

Creeping baby's breath (*Gypsophila repens*) Up to 30cm tall x 30cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/gypsophila-baby-breath

Drabas (*Draba* spp.) Up to 10cm tall x clumping form

https://www.wildaboutflowers.ca/plant\_detail.php?Yellowstone-Draba-241

Dragonheads (Dracocephalum spp.) Up to 50cm tall x 30cm wide

https://plantlust.com/plants/20219/dracocephalum-ruyschiana/

Dwarf hairy beardtongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*) Up to 120cm tall x 6 cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/penstemon-beardtongue

Edelweiss (Leontopodium alpium) Up to 30cm tall x 30 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/edelweiss

Fleabane (*Erigeron* spp. Choose ground-huggers *E. montanensis* or *E. scopulinus*) Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/erigeron-speciosus

Gentians, trumpet gentian (*Gentiana verna*) Up to 15cm tall x 15cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/gentiana-verna-spring-gentian

Harebell (Campanula alaskana) Up to 15cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/campanula-bellflower

Hens and chicks (*Sempervivum tectorum*) Up to 15cm tall x 15cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/hens-and-chicks Iceland poppies (*Papaver nudicaule*) Up to 60cm tall x 30cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/papaver-nudicaule-champagne-bubbles-orange

Mossy saxifrage (Saxifraga x arendsii) Up to 20cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/saxifraga-saxifrage

Pheasant's eye (Adonis vernalis) Up to 50cm tall x30cm wide

https://www.gardenershq.com/Adonis-Pheasants-Eye.php

Red creeping thyme (*Thymus praecox*) Up to 30cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/thyme

Rock cress (Aubretia deltoidea) Up to 23cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/rock-cress

Rock or sun rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*) Up to 20cm tall x 60cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/helianthemum-rock-rose">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/helianthemum-rock-rose</a>

Stonecrops (*Sedum* spp. and *Hylotelephium* spp.) Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/stonecrop

Thrift (Armeria maritima) Up to 25cm tall x 15cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/thrift

Red Penstemon, beardtongue

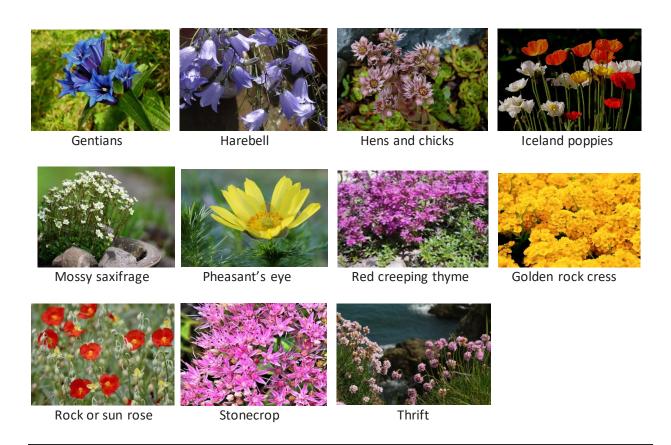
#### Perennials recommended for rock gardens: Photos

Dragonheads



**Edelweiss** 

Fleabane



## Perennials for ground cover

Bugleweed or carpet bugle (Ajuga reptans) Up to 15cm tall x 60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/ajuga-carpet-bugle Candytuft (Iberis sempervivens) Up to 30cm tall x 60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/iberis-sempervirens-evergreen-candytuft Creeping or moss phlox (Phlox subulata) Up to 13cm tall x 90cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/phlox Dwarf speedwell (Veronica pectinata) Up to 8cm tall x 90cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/veronica-speedwell European ginger (Asarum europaeum) Up to 30cm tall x 60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/asarum-europaeum-european-wild-ginger Fairy's thimble (Campanula cochlearifolia) Up to 15cm tall x 60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/campanula-cochlearifolia-fairy-timble Golden creeping Jenny (Lysimachia nummularia) Up to 15cm tall x 60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lysimachia-nummularia-aurea Hens and Chicks (Sempervivum tectorum) Up to 8cm tall x 30cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/sempervivum-hens-and-chicks Lily of the valley (Convallaria majalis) Up to 20cm tall x 60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/convallaria

Maiden pink (*Dianthus deltoides*) Up to 18cm tall x 18cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/dianthus

Periwinkle (Vinca minor) Up to 15cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/vinca-periwinkle

Pussytoes (Antennaria rosae) Up to 8cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/antennaria-pussytoe

Rock cress (Arabis alpina or A. alpina subsp. Caucasica) Up to 20cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/arabis-alpina-subsp-caucasica

Rock soapwort (Saponaria ocymoides) Up to 23cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/saponaria-ocymoides

Saxifrages (Saxifraga spp.) Up to 20cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/saxifraga-saxifrage

Stemless gentian (Gentiana acaulis) Up to 15cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/gentiana-gentian

Stonecrops (Sedum spp. or Hyotelephium spp.) Up to 13cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/sedum-stonecrop

Sweet woodruff (Galium odoratum) Up to 15cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/sweet-woodruff

Red creeping thyme (*Thymus praecox*) Up to 8cm tall x 130cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/thymus-thyme

Woolly thyme (*Thymus pseudolanuginosus*) Up to 8cm tall x 30cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/woolly-thyme

#### Perennials for ground cover: Photos





# Appealingly fragrant perennials

Bearded iris (*Iris germanica*) Sweet smelling. Up to 120cm tall x 60cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/iris-germanica-bearded-iris">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/iris-germanica-bearded-iris</a>
Garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) Strong fragrance. Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide

 $\underline{\text{https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/phlox}}$ 

Gas plant (*Dictamnus alba*) Lemony fragrance. Up to 90cm tall x 90cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/dictamnus-albus-albiflorus

Sweet iris 'Variegata' (*Iris palida*) Smells like grape KoolAid. Up to 90cm tall x 90cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/iris">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/iris</a>

Sweet William (*Dianthus barbatus*) Sweet smelling. Up to 25cm tall x 60cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/dianthus">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/dianthus</a>

#### **Appealingly fragrant perennials: Photos**











Sweet William

# Best big and bold perennials

Delphiniums (*Delphinium* spp.) Up to 180cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/delphinium

False sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) Up to 180cm tall x 120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/heliopsis-oxeye-sunflower

Giant meadow rue (*Thalictrum rochebrunianum*) Up to 180cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/thalictrum-meadow-rue

Goat's beard (*Aruncus dioicus*) Up to 90cm tall x 120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/aruncus-goat-beard

Leopard plant (*Ligularia przewalski*) Up to 180cm tall x 90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/ligularia-przewalskii

Monkshood (*Aconitum napellus*) Up to 150cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/monkshood

Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*) Up to 150cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/sneezeweed

#### Best big and bold perennials: Photos



# **Drought tolerant perennials**

Alliums (Allium spp.) Up to 120cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/allium

Bee balms (Monarda didyma and M. fistula) Up to 30cm tall x 25cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/monarda-bee-balm

Blanket flowers (Gaillardia spp.) Up to 25cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/gaillardia-blanket-flower

Blazing star (Liatris spp.) Up to 90cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/liatris

Catmints (Nepeta x faasseni and N. mussini) Up to 60cm tall x 90cm clump

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/catmint

Dianthus (Dianthus ssp.) Up to 30cm tall x 50cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/dianthus

Lungworts (*Pulmonaria* spp.) Up to 30cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/pulmonaria-lungwort

Prairie smoke (Geum triflorum) Up to 60cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/geum-triflorum-prairie-smoke

Russian sage (Salvia yangii=Perovskia atriplicifolia) Up to 90cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/salvia-sage
Southern globe thistle (*Echinops ritro*) Up to 120cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/echinops-ritro-veitchs-blue-globe-thistle

Speedwells (Veronica spicata and V. longifolia) Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/speedwell

#### **Drought tolerant perennials: Photos**



# Top perennials for shade

Astilbes (Astilbe spp.) Up to 90cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/astilbe

Bleeding heart, Golden (*Lamprocapnos spectabilis=Dicentra spectabilis*) Up to 30cm tall x 60cm wide in clumps

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/dicentra-spectabilis-gold-heart-bleeding-heart

Brunnera (Brunnera macrophylla) Up to 30cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/brunnera-siberian-bugloss

Bugbane (Actea simplex) Up to 120cm tall x 90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/bugbane

Bugleweed (Ajuga reptans) Up to 15cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/ajuga-carpet-bugle

Goat's beard (Aruncus dioicus) Up to 90cm tall x 120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/aruncus-goat-beard

Hostas (Hosta spp.) Up to 150cm tall x120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/hosta-plantain-lily

Toad lily (Tricyrtis formosana) Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/toad-lily

#### Top perennials for shade: Photos



# Happy perennials in a sunny location with >6 hours of sun

Avens (Geum spp.) Up to 30cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/avens

Beardtongues (*Penstemon* spp.) Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/penstemon-beardtongue

Candytuft (Iberis sempervirens) Up to 30cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/candytuft

Cranesbills (Geranium spp.) Up to 30cm tall x 90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/cranesbill

Creeping thyme (Thymus serpyllum) Up to 8cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/thymus-thyme

Day lilies (Hemerocallis spp.) Up to 90cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/hemerocallis-daylily

Lamb's ears (Stachys byzantina) Up to 25cm tall x 25cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/stachys

Maiden pink (Dianthus deltoides) Up to 25cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/dianthus-classic-coral

Painted daisy (Tanacetum coccineum) Up to 90cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/tanacetum-coccineum-painted-daisy

Peonies (Paeonia spp.) Up to 90cm tall x 90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/paeonia-peony

Thrift (Armeria maritima) Up to 8cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/armeria-thrift

Wood asters (*Eurybia* spp.) Up to 200cm tall x 150cm wide <a href="https://ferriseeds.com/products/aster-white-wood-aster-divaricatus">https://ferriseeds.com/products/aster-white-wood-aster-divaricatus</a>
Woolly thyme (*Thymus pseudolanuginosus*) Up to 8cm tall x 30cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/thymus-thyme">https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/thymus-thyme</a>

## Happy perennials in a sunny location: Photos



## Early blooming perennials with spring color

Basket of gold (Aurinia saxatilis) Up to 30cm tall x 45cm wide

https://www.worldplants.ca/display.php?id=2903

Bergenia (Bergenia cordifolia) Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/bergenia

Bleeding heart (*Lamprocapnos spectabilis=Dicentra spectabilis*) Up to 40cm tall x 60cm wide https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lamprocapnos

Bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis) Up to 25cm tall x 15cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/bloodroot

Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica* and *M. paniculata*) Up to 90cm tall x 50cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/mertensia-paniculata

Hellebores (Helleborus spp.) Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/helleborus-hellebore

Lungworts (Pulmonaria spp.) Up to 30cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/pulmonaria-lungwort

Marsh marigold (Catha palustris) Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/marsh-marigold

Prairie crocus (Pulsatilla nuttallania) Up to 30cm tall x 10cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/pulsatilla-pasque-flower

Oxlip primrose (*Primula elatior*) Soft yellow. Up to 30cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/oxlip
Yellow cowslip (*Primula veris*) Brash yellow. Up to 25cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/cowslip

Auricula primrose (*Primula auricula*) Multicolors flowers Up to 20cm tall x 20cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/primula-auricula-sirius

Drumstick primrose (*Primula denticulate*) Mauve and taller. Up to 30cm tall x 30cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/primula-denticulata-drumstick-primula">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/primula-denticulata-drumstick-primula</a>

English primrose (Primula vulgaris) Up to 20cm tall x 20cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/primrose

Rock cress (Aubretia deltoidea) Up to 23cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/rock-cress

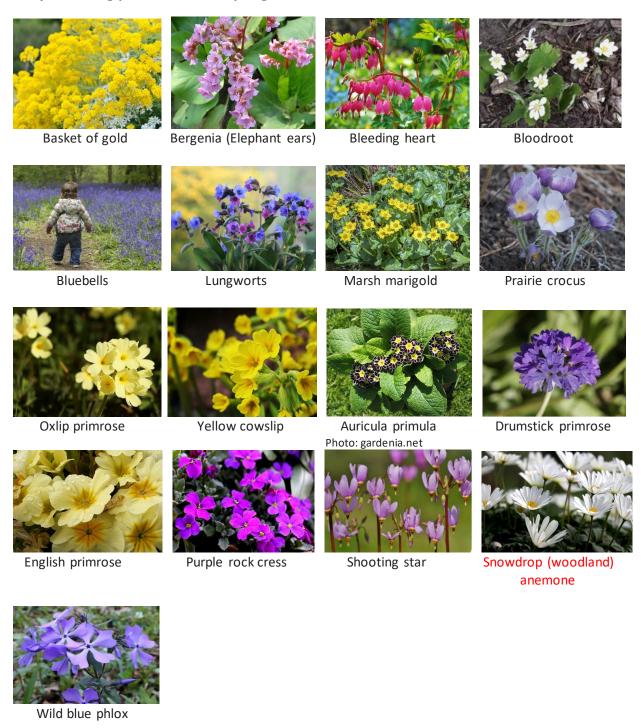
Shooting star (*Primula meadia* syn *Dodecatheon meadia*) Up to 35cm tall x 30cm wide https://bambooplants.ca/product/dodecatheon-meadia-shooting-star-primula

Snowdrop anemone (Anemone sylvestris) Up to 30cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/anemone-sylvestris-snowdrop-anemone

Wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) Up to 60cm tall x 90cm wide www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/phlox

# **Early blooming perennials with spring color: Photos**



## Late-blooming summer or early autumn flowering perennials

Balloon flower (*Platycodon grandiflorus*) Up to 25cm tall x 25cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/platycodon-balloon-flower

Black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia* spp.) Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/rudbeckia

False sunflower (Heliopsis helianthoides) Up to 120cm tall x 120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/heliopsis-helianthoides

Giant hyssop (Agastache foeniculum) Up to 90cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/agastache-hyssop

Pearly everlasting (Anaphalis margaritacea) Up to 90cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/anaphalis-margaritacea-pearly-everlasting

Showy aster (Eurybia conspicua) Up to 90cm tall x 60cm wide spreading

https://www.wildaboutflowers.ca/plant\_detail.php?Showy-Aster-19

Sneezeweed (Helenium autumnale) Up to 150cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/sneezeweed

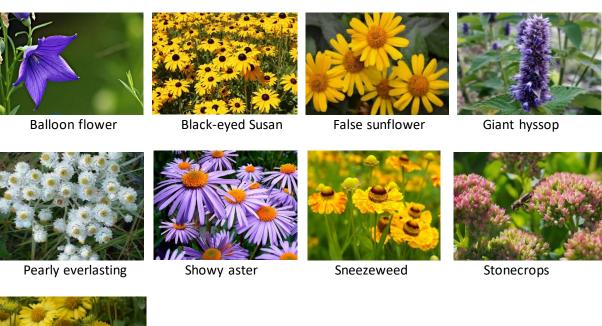
Stonecrops 'Autumn Joy' and 'Matrona' (Sedum spp. and Hylotelephium spp.) Up to 60cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/stonecrop

Tickseeds (Coreopsis spp.) Up to 130cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/coreopsis

#### Late-blooming summer or early autumn flowering perennials: Photos





Tickseed

## Fast-growing perennial climbing vines, but on a trellis, not the walls, please!

American Bittersweet (Celastrus scandens) Up to 3m tall x 3m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/american-bittersweet

Clematis 'Jackmanii'; Others are 'Ernest Markham', 'Rouge Cardinal','Contesse de Bouchard' and 'Polish Spirit' (*Clematis* spp.) Grows up to 3.7m in one season, very showy. 1.8m wide. They are 'Group C', growing on new wood each year

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/clematis-jackmanii

Sweet autumn clematis (Clematis terniflora) Up to 9m tall x 1.8m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/clematis-paniculata

Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle (Lonicera x Brownii) 2.4 – 3.7m tall x 1.5 – 1.8m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lonicera-brownii-dropmore-scarlet

Engelmann Vine ( $Parthenocissus\ quinquefolia\ 'Engelmannii')\ 9.1-15.2m\ tall\ x\ 1.5-3m\ wide$ 

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/parthenocissus-quinquefolia

Golden hops (*Humulus lupulus* 'Aureus') Hard to control spread, need good supports. Up to 4.6m tall x 1.8m wide

https://bambooplants.ca/product/bianca-golden-hops-humulus-lupulus/

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera x* 'Mandarin') 4.6 - 6.1m tall x 1.2 - 1.8m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lonicera-mandarin

Hops (*Humulus lupulus*) Hard to control prolific growth, need good supports. Up to 7.5m tall x 1.8 m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/humulus-lupulus-aureus-common-hop

Sweet Pea (Lathyrus latifolia) 1.8 – 2.7m tall x 0.8 – 1.9m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lathyrus-latifolius-perennial-sweet-pea

Virginia Creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia) 9.1 – 15.2 m tall x 1.5 - 3.0m wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/parthenocissus-quinquefolia

Valiant Grape (Vitis ripari) 1m tall x 1m wide

https://www.hardyfruittrees.ca/produit/all-trees/valiant-grape-vine/

#### Fast-growing perennial vines and climbers: Photos



Clematis 'Jackman'



Sweet autumn clematis



Hops (climbing vine)



Golden hops



# **Even more Perennials for Zone 4!**

Anise-Hyssop (Agastache foeniculum) 60cm tall x 39-90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/agastache-foeniculum

Arctic Campion (Lychnis alpina) 10-15cm tall x 15-20cm wide

https://www.perennials.com/plants/lychnis-alpina.html

Bigfoot Cranesbill (Geranium macrorrhizum) 20-30cm tall x 60-120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/geranium-macrorrhizum-czakor-cranesbill

Bishop's Goutweed (*Aegopodium podogara* 'Variegatum') 50cm tall x 100cm wide. Extremely invasive! <a href="https://www.eclipselandscaping.ca/online-nursery/Goutweed-Variegated-p435968243">https://www.eclipselandscaping.ca/online-nursery/Goutweed-Variegated-p435968243</a>

Black Snakeroot (Bugbane, Black Cohosh) (*Cimicifuga racemose = Actaea racemose*) 120-180cm tall x 60-120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/actaea-racemosa-black-cohosh

Bleeding Heart (*Lamprocapnos spectabilis=Dicentra spectabilis*) 60-90cm tall x 30-90 cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/dicentra-bleeding-heart

Bloody Cranesbill (Geranium sanguineum) 20-30cm tall x 30-60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/geranium-sanguineum-max-frei

Blue Globe Thistle (Echinops) 90-120cm tall x 60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/echinops-globe-thistle

Blue Sea Holly (Eryngium planum) 60-90cm tall x 30-60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/eryngium-planum-blue-glitter-sea-holly

Chameleon Plant (Houttuynia cordata 'Chameleon') 20-60cm tall x 30-60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/houttuynia-cordata-chameleon-chameleon

Cliff Green (Paxistima canbyi) 0.3m tall x 1.0m wide

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paxistima canbyi

Mountain Cornflower = Mountain Bluet (*Centauria montana*) 60-120cm tall x 60-90cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/centaurea-cornflower

Cranesbill (*Geranium* x '*Johnson's Blue*') 30-60cm tall x 60-90cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/geranium-johnsons-blue-cranesbill

Cranesbill (Geranium himalayense 'Plenum') 30-60cm tall x 60-90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/geranium-cranesbill

Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*) 8-15cm tall x 30-60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lysimachia-nummularia-aurea

Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) 150-180cm tall x 30-60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/veronicastrum-culver-root

Cushion Spurge (*Euphorbia polychrome*) 30-60cm tall x 30-60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/euphorbia-polychroma-cushion-spurge

Day Lily (*Hemerocallis* spp.) 60-90cm tall x 30-60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/hemerocallis-daylily

Fernleaf Bleeding Heart (*Lamprocapnos formosa=Dicentra formosa*) 60-90cm tall x 60-90cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/dicentra-bleeding-heart

Fingerleaf Rodgersia (*Rodgersia aesculifolia*) 2m tall x 1m wide https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodgersia aesculifolia

Fleabane (*Erigeron*) 15-30cm tall x 30-60cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/erigeron-fleabane

Fringed Loosestrife (*Lysimachia ciliata* 'Firecracker') 60-90cm tall x 60-90cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lysimachia-ciliata-firecracker

German Statice (*Goniolimon tataricum*) Extremely invasive! 30cm tall x 60cm wide https://garden.org/plants/view/806463/Goniolimon-tataricum-subsp-tataricum/

Golden Birdsfoot (*Lotus comiculatus 'Plentiflorus'*) 5-20 cm tall x up to 50cm spread https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lotus corniculatus

Golden Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia '*Aurea') 8-15cm tall x 30-60cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lysimachia-nummularia-aurea">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lysimachia-nummularia-aurea</a>

Gooseneck Loosestrife (*Lysimachia clethroides*) 60-90cm tall x 60-120cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lysimachia-clethroides

Irish Moss (*Sagina subulate*) 3-5cm tall x no limits spreader https://www.gardenia.net/plant/sagina-subulata

Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium caeruleum*) 30-60cm tall x 30-60 cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/polemonium-jacob-ladder

Japanese Spurge (*Pachysandra terminalis*) 8-10cm tall x 18-20 cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plant/pachysandra-terminalis-japanese-spurge

Kamchatka Bugbane (*Cimicifuga simplex* 'White Pearl') 90-120cm tall x 60-75 cm wide https://www.perennials.com/plants/cimicifuga-simplex-white-pearl.html

Lewisia (Cliff Maid) 10-15cm tall x 15-20cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/lewisia-cliff-maids Lupin (Lupinus) 60-90cm tall x 60-90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/lupinus-lupine

Maltese Cross (Lychnis chalcedonica) 60-120cm tall x 25-30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lychnis-chalcedonica-maltese-cross

Painted Daisy (Tanacetum coccineum) 60-90cm tall x 30-60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/tanacetum-coccineum-painted-daisy

Pasque Flower (Pulsatilla vulgaris) 20-30cm tall x 20-30 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/pulsatilla-vulgaris-pasque-flower

Perennial Flax (Linum perenne) 30-60cm tall x 30-60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/linum-perenne

Perennial Pansy (Viola cornuta) 25-30cm tall x 30-40cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/viola-halo-violet

Pink Fleeceflower (dwarf) (*Polygonum affine=Persicaria affinis* 'Dimity')25cm tall x 15cm wide https://www.antheiagardens.ca/plant-name/Persicaria-affinis-Dimity

Pink Mallow (White Musk Mallow) (*Malva moschata* 'Rosea') 30-50cm tall x 50-60cm wide <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/malva-moschata-alba">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/malva-moschata-alba</a>

Pink (Lyon's) Turtlehead (Chelone Iyonia) 60-90cm tall x 60-90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/chelone-lyonii-pink-turtlehead

Queen of the Prairie (Filipendula rubra) 120-240cm tall x 90-120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/filipendula-rubra-venusta-queen-of-the-prairie

Obedient Plant (Physostegia virginiana) 90-120cm tall x 60-90 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/physostegia-virginiana

Rodgersia Astilbe (Astilboides tabularis) 90-120cm tall x 60-90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/astilboides-tabularis

Russian Sage (Salvia yangii= Perovskia atriplicifolia) 60-90cm tall x 60-90 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/perovskia-russian-sage

Sea Lavender (Limonium latifolium) 0.9m tall x 0.6m wide

https://bambooplants.ca/product/sea-lavender-limonium-platyphyllum/

Shasta Daisy (*Leucanthemum x superbum*) 60-90cm tall x 30-60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/leucanthemum-x-superbum

Showy Cranesbill *Geraneum x magnificum*) 60-90cm tall x 60-90 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/geranium-x-magnificum-purple-cranesbill

Silver Brocade (Artemisia stellarian) 15-30cm tall x 60-75cm wide

https://glenleagreenhouses.com/products/artemisia-silver-cascade

Solomon's Seal (Polygonatum multiflorum) 60-90cm tall x 25-30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/polygonatum-multiflorum

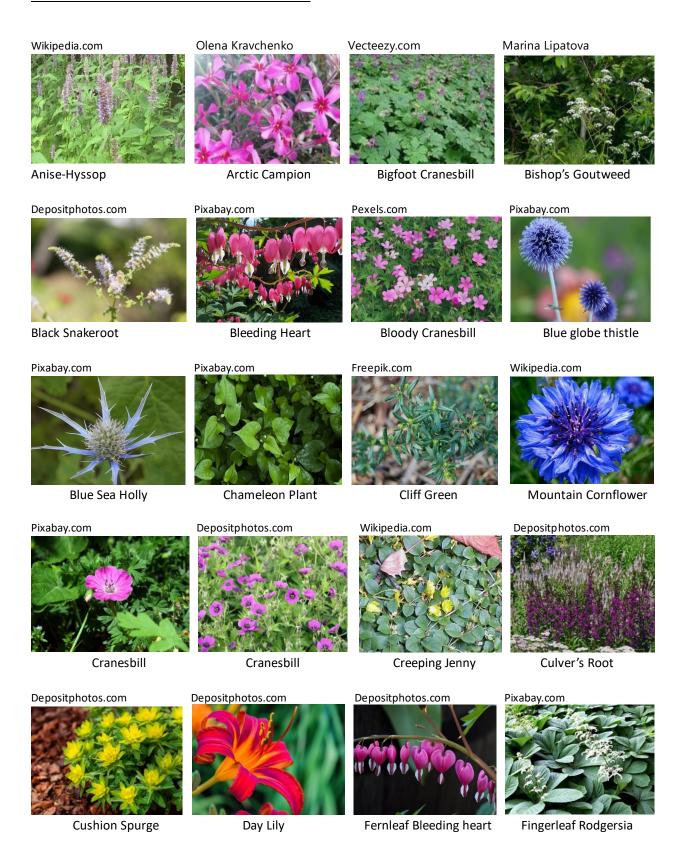
Variegated Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium caeruleum* 'Brise d' Anjou') 30-60cm tall x 30-60cm wide

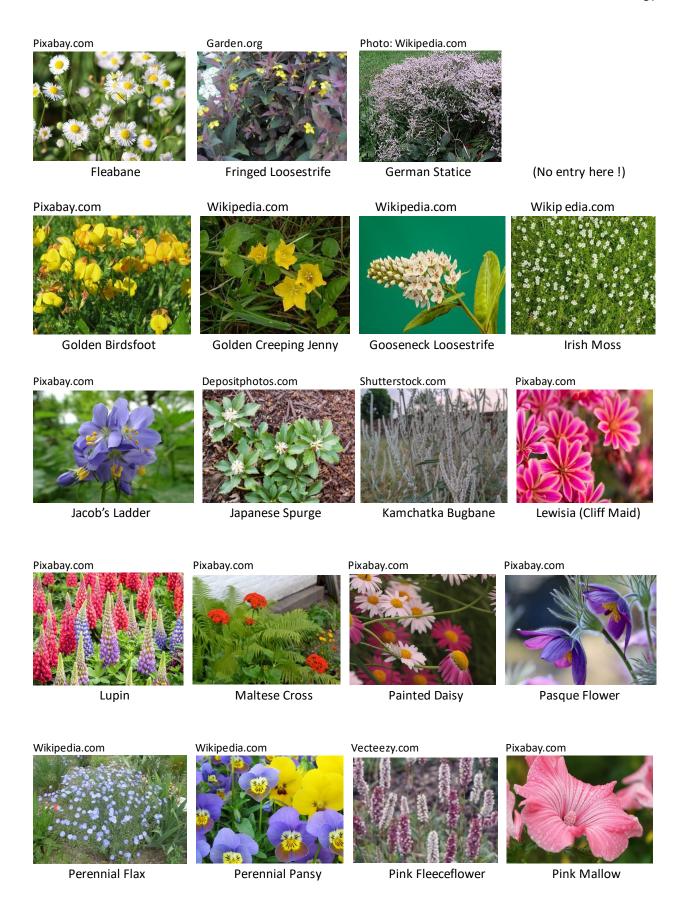
https://www.gardenia.net/plant/polemonium-caeruleum-brise-anjou

Yellow Loosestrife (Lysimachia punctata) 60-90cm tall x 30-60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lysimachia-punctata-yellow-loosestrife

### **Even more Perennials for Zone 4! Photos**







# **Decorative garden grasses**

#### **Cool Season Grasses for Zone 4**

(Grow quickly in cool conditions of spring and in the fall, but mostly go dormant in the summer)

Feather Reed grass 'Karl Foerster', 'Overdam', 'Avalanche', or 'Eldorado' (*Calamagrostis brachytricha*)

Early plumes up to 1.5m high x 1m wide, tall and cream to purple color depending on variety.

Year-round color, green/white variegation, flowers silvery-grey plumes.

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/calamagrostis-brachytricha-reed-grass

Tufted Hairgrass 'Northern Lights', or Tussock hair-grass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) Variegated leaves, up to >1m tall x 60cm wide, semi-evergreen, low dense tussock, dark green https://www.gardenia.net/plant/deschampsia-cespitosa-tufted-hair-grass

Blue Fescue 'Elijah Blue' (*Festuca glauca*) Mostly dwarf clump type, good for borders, leaves are blueish. Up to 30cm tall x 30cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/festuca-glauca-blue-fescue-grass

Blue Oat grass 'Sapphire' (Helictotrichon sempervivens) Clumps of blue foliage, narrow steel-blue leaves. Up to 150cm tall x 50cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/helictotrichon-sempervirens-blue-oat-grass

#### **Cool Season Grasses for Zone 4, Alberta: Photos**









Feather Reed grass

Tufted, Tussock Hair-grass

Blue Fescue

Blue Oat grass

## Warm Season Grasses for Zone 4

(Slow spring growth, fast growth in summer heat, flower late season, often very showy in winter)

Miscanthus or Maiden grass or Chinese silver grass 'Zebrinus', 'Morning Light', 'Gracillimus' (Miscanthus spp.) Spectacular in winter! Cold hardy, tall feathery silver plumes Up to 150cm tall x 120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/miscanthus-maiden-grass

Switchgrass 'Shenandoah', 'Heavy Metal' (Panicum virgatum) Olive-green to blue-green foliage, fine golden flowers look like a cloud over the top. Up to 1.5m tall, 1m wide. All turns beige in winter Up to 210cm tall x 90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/panicum-switch-grass

Little Bluestem or Beardgrass 'Little Bluestem' (Schizachyrium scoparium) Blue-green foliage turns red in fall. Beardgrass grows in fine textured mounds, with blue-green stems. Up to 160cm tall x 60cm wide. Stems become mahogany-red with white shiny seed tufts in fall

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/schizachyrium

Pennisetum or Fountain grasses 'Hameln', 'Little Bunny', 'Burgundy Bunny' (Pennisetum alopecuroides) Rarely > 1m tall but 90cm wide as a clump. Requires winter protection in Zone 4.

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/pennisetum-fountain-grass

#### Warm Season Grasses for Zone 4, Alberta: Photos









Miscanthus, maiden grass

Switchgrass

Little Bluestem grass

Purple fountain grass

# Other grasses for Zone 4

Cattail (Typha) 90-210cm tall x 30-60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/typha

Dwarf Moor Grass (Molina caerulea) 60-120cm tall x 60-120 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/molinia-caerulea-subsp-arundinacea-moor-grass

Mosquito Grass, Blue Grama (Bouteloua gracilis) 30 cm tall x Spreading form

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/bouteloua-gracilis-blue-grama

Ribbon Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) 30-60 cm tall x 30-60 cm wide. **Extremely invasive!** 

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/phalaris-arundinacea-var-picta-picta

Variegated Bulbous Oatgrass (*Arrhenatherum elatius bulbosum* 'Variegatum') 35cm tall x 45cm wide <a href="https://okanaganxeriscape.org/db/plant/161">https://okanaganxeriscape.org/db/plant/161</a>

#### Other Grasses for Zone 4: Photos



Cattail Pixabay.com



Dwarf Moor Grass freenatureimages.eu/plants



Mosquito Grass Wikipedia.com



Ribbon Grass Wikipedia.com



Variegated Bulbous Oatgrass Wikipedia.com

#### **Ferns**

Cinnamon Fern (Osmunda cinnamomea) 60-150cm tall x 60-90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/osmunda-cinnamomea-cinnamon-fern

Japanese Painted Fern (Athyrium niponicum 'Pictum') 30-60cm tall x 60-90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/athyrium-niponicum-crested-surf

Lady Fern (Athyrium-filix-femina) 20-90cm tall x 40-180cm wide

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athyrium filix-femina

Leather Wood Fern (*Dryopteris marginali*) 30-60 cm tall x 30-60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/dryopteris-marginalis

Maidenhair Fern (Adiantum pedantum) 30-90cm tall x 30-90cm wide. Usually an indoor fern, requiring high humidity and stable temperatures

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/adiantum-maidenhair-fern

Male Fern (Dryopteris filix-mas) 60-120cm tall x 60-120 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/dryopteris-filix-mas-male-fern

Ostrich, Native, Fern (Matteuccia struthiopteris) 120-180cm tall x 90-120cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/matteuccia-struthiopteris-ostrich-fern

Purple-stem Royal Fern (Osmunda regalis 'Purpurascens') 60-120 cm tall x 60-120cm wide https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/osmunda

#### **Ferns: Photos**







Japanese Painted Fern

Lady Fern

Leather Wood Fern

Wikipedia.com



Wikipedia.com



Wikipedia.com



Wikipedia.com



Maidenhair Fern

Male Fern

Ostrich, 'Native' Fern

Royal Fern

#### 'Hardy' Herbs

(Protection outdoors recommended for most of these, and/or overwinter them indoors)

Bee Balm (Monarda didyma) 25-30cm tall x 25-30 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/monarda-bee-balm

Burnet Salad (Sanguisorba minor) 20-60 cm tall x 30-60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/sanguisorba-minor

Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*) 30-60cm tall x30-60cm wide. Very hardy! No protection needed <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/allium-schoenoprasum-chives">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/allium-schoenoprasum-chives</a>

Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*) 30-90cm tall x 25-90 cm wide. Very hardy! No protection needed <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/symphytum-officinale">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/symphytum-officinale</a>

Echinacea (Echinacea angustifolia) 60-120 cm tall x 30-90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/echinacea-coneflower?page=1

French Tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus sativus*) Marginal for Edmonton, best choice for cooking 30-60cm tall x 30-60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/artemisia-dracunculus

Garden Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) 60cm tall x 30cm wide. Very hardy! No protection needed <a href="https://inaturalist.ca/taxa/55821-Rumex-acetosa">https://inaturalist.ca/taxa/55821-Rumex-acetosa</a>

Garlic Chives (*Allium tuberosum*) 30-60cm tall x 30-60cm wide. Very hardy! No protection needed <a href="https://www.gardenia.net/plant/allium-tuberosum">https://www.gardenia.net/plant/allium-tuberosum</a>

Lovage (Levisticum officinale) 90-180cm tall x 60-90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/levisticum-officinale

Mint (Mentha) 30-90cm tall x 30-90cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/mentha-mint Extreme spreader!

Oregano (Origanum vulgare) 30-60cm tall x 50-60 cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/origanum-oregano

Russian Tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculoides* Pursch.) Very hardy, not so flavorful, invasive 30-60cm tall x 30-60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/artemisia

Thyme (Thymus) 30-60cm tall x 30-60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/thymus-thyme

Valerian (Valerian) 1m tall x 0.7m wide. Marginal hardiness

https://www.growveg.com/plants/us-and-canada/how-to-grow-valerian/

Wild Strawberry (Fragaria vesca) 30-60cm tall x 30-60cm wide

https://www.gardenia.net/plant/fragaria-vesca-mara-des-bois

#### 'Hardy Herbs': Photos









Bee Balm Burnet Salad

Chives

Comfrey



# DANGER! TOXIC GARDEN PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN! (12 to watch out for)

Some perennials can be toxic to you, children, pets and wildlife! Be careful around these plants! The toxic plant parts are indicated:

|   | Toxic plant parts     | Max. height x width (cm) |  |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Bleeding heart (Lamprocapnos spectabilis)                   | All parts             | 120 x 45                 |  |
| https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lamprocapnos                  |                       |                          |  |
| Coneflowers (Rudbeckia spp.)                                | All parts             | 90 x 90                  |  |
| https://www.gardenia.net/plants/common-names/coneflower     |                       |                          |  |
| Delphinium (Delphinium spp.)                                | All parts             | 240 x 35                 |  |
| https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/delphinium           |                       |                          |  |
| Fleabane ( <i>Erigeron</i> spp.)                            | All parts             | 60 x 60                  |  |
| https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/erigeron-fleabane    |                       |                          |  |
| Foxglove (Digitalis purpurea)                               | All parts, very toxic | 180 x 60                 |  |
| https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/digitalis-foxglove   |                       |                          |  |
| Hellebore (Helleborus spp.)                                 | Everything except the | e flowers 60 x 60        |  |
| https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/helleborus-hellebore |                       |                          |  |

| Iris (Iris spp.)  | Leaves and rhizomes          | 90 x 60  |  |
|---|------------------------------|----------|--|
| https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/iris               |                              |          |  |
| Lily of the valley (Convallaria majais)                   | All parts                    | 20 x 60  |  |
| https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/convallaria        |                              |          |  |
| Lobelia ( <i>Lobelia</i> spp.)                            | Leaves and seeds             | 120 x 90 |  |
| https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/lobelia            |                              |          |  |
| Monkshood (Aconitum spp.)                                 | All parts, very toxic        | 150 x 60 |  |
| https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/aconitum-monkshood |                              |          |  |
| Poppies ( <i>Papaver</i> spp.)                            | Everything except ripe seeds | 120 x 90 |  |
| https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/papaver-poppy      |                              |          |  |
| Rhubarb (Rheum rhubarbarum)                               | Leaves                       | 150 x 90 |  |
| https://www.gardenia.net/plants/genera/rheum-rhubarb      |                              |          |  |

#### **DANGER - TOXIC GARDEN PLANTS! Photos**



# **END OF RECOMMENDED 'PERENNIALS' DOCUMENTATION**

Thank you for reading this far...and have fun gardening!

Content updated January 28, 2025 Document assembled by Keith G. Briggs, Edmonton AB Canada

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