Little used native plants for big impact!
Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, WSU Associate Professor and Extension Horticulturist

Trees
- *Alnus viridis* ssp *sinuata* - attractive and more compact the more ubiquitous *A. rubra*
- *Juniperus communis* or *J. scopulorum/maritimum* - shrubs or small trees, drought-tolerant slow-growers to modest size

Shrubs
- *Arctostaphylos* spp - many larger spp in this large genus such as *A. patula* and *A. canescens* are underused compare to the low-growing *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
- *Calycanthus occidentalis* - large, aromatic, deciduous, with elegant and exotic dark-red camellia-like flowers. Several cultivars of closely related spp long available in trade
- *Chamaebatiaria millefolium* - very showy dryland plant, deciduous in colder zones, evergreen in mild winter areas
- *Linnaea borealis* - woodland groundcover with evergreen leaves, easy to grow once established

Perennials
- *Abronia latifolia* - coastal dune plant, succulent leaves, attractive flowers, bee plant
- *Aralia californica* - large herbaceous shrub, great for wet areas
- *Asclepias* spp - the exclusive larval food of the monarch butterfly, but also nectar food of several spp. Consider *A. fascicularis* and *A. speciosa*
- *Balsamorhiza* spp – showy, yellow sunflower-like flowers, best in sunny, well-drained conditions
- *Geum triflorum* - lovely flower heads, bee plant suitable for drier habitats
- *Lewisia* spp - succulent foliage, showy flowers, tidy plants
- *Lomatium columbianum* - large plant with attractive gray-green divided foliage, showy pink flowers
- *Monardella odoratissima* - low mounds of blue-gray foliage with lavender flowers; pollinator plant
- *Oenothera cespitosa* - showy, pinkish-white, low-growing; best in well-drained, sunny conditions
- *Opuntia polyacantha* and *O. fragilis* - like all cacti, these do best in well-drained, sunny locations
- *Parnassia fimbriata* - very showy flowers, does best in moist, shady conditions
- *Penstemon* spp - showy flowers mostly in the red-blue-purple range, pollinator plants, some evergreen spp
- *Sphaeralcea munroana* - tall, with showy, deep orange flowers that pollinators love
- *Synthyris lanuginosa* - deep blue flowers upon wooly mound of foliage; try in rock gardens
- *Townsendia* - large, low-growing, very showy daisylike flowers in pink, blue, or lavender hues
- *Vancouveria chrysantha* - more evergreen than *V. hexandra*, with yellow “inside out” flowers

Bulbs
- *Lilium columbianum* – common in the wild, but little grown in gardens; easy to cultivate
- *Triteleia hendersonii* - strikingly attractive flowers, pale with dark midveins
- *Trillium albidum* - surprisingly easy to grow, especially in containers, with large, showy flowers
- *Xerophyllum tenax* - iconic alpine plant. Purchase container plants to start; they spread over time

Annuals
- *Clarkia pulchella* - showy light pink to lilac flowers, often with bright pink splotches
- *Collomia grandiflora* - tall, showy, generally pale orange but also white or light yellow, bee plant
- *Gilia capitata* - periinkle blue puffs that readily re-bloom and self-seed. Very drought-tolerant and highly desirable pollinator plants
- *Plectritis congesta* - unusual, showy pink flower with bee value; coastal and relatively xeric

Grasses
- *Festuca californica* - tall bunchgrass, coastal

Wetlands:
- *Juncus patens* - gray-green, evergreen, clumping, tolerates some droughty periods
- *Juncus ensifolius* - bright green, flat blades, attractive dark brown flowers
- *Carex macrocephala* - large, showy, beach plant
- *Carex spectabilis* - very showy, white inflorescence; montane
Regional sources of native plants (curated by Sami Gray)

Alplains (Colorado, online only) - seeds, xeric/high elevation - includes many natives such as Townsendia, Synthyris lanuginosa.  http://www.alplains.com/

Bosky Dell Natives (West Linn, OR, online) - native plant nursery, informative web site. Many spp., including a large selection of native Penstemon.  http://www.boskydellnatives.com/

Center for Native Plants (Montana, online) - extensive perennials list includes Parnassia fimbriata, Ratibida columnifera, numerous Penstemon spp.  https://centerfornativeplants.com/

Derby Canyon Natives (Peshastin, WA, online) - all natives; bulk seeds of native grasses; live stakes of shrubs; container plants for all categories.  Alnus viridis, Linnaea, many perennials including Balsamorhiza, Monardella, Penstemon spp., Sphaeralcea munroana.  https://derbycanyonnatives.com/

Desert Jewels Nursery (Spokane, online) – specializes in rock garden plants and ground covers; includes Penstemon, Eriogonum, and Sedum.  https://www.desertjewelsnursery.com/

The Desert Northwest (Sequim, WA, online) - specializes in dry-climate plants - carries several cultivars of the native Opuntia spp.  https://www.desertnorthwest.com/

Fourth Corner Nurseries (Bellingham, online) - bare root and container plants, wholesale quantities but no license or reseller permit needed.  http://fourthcornernurseries.com/

Inside Passage Seeds (Port Townsend, online only) - all native, species and populations in the Puget Sound region, including Abronia, Aruncus, Balsamorhiza, Geum trilflorum, several Lupinus spp, Penstemon, Xerophyllum.  http://www.insidepassageseeds.com/

Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seeds (online only) - includes Aralia californica, Aruncus dioicus, Asclepias speciosa and A. fascicularis, Balsamorhiza deltoidea, Darmera (peltiphyllum), Eriogonum spp., Erytranthe cardinalis, Lupinus leucophyllis, Pedicularis densiflorus, Xerophyllum.  https://klamathsiskiyouseeds.com/

North American Rock Garden Society seed exchange (online only) - includes natives such as Townsendia.  https://nargs.org/seed-exchange


Xera Plants (Portland, online) - a good selection of showy native annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs. Includes several Arctostaphylos selections, Juniperus spp, Vancouveria chrysantha, Gilia spp., Ratibida, Romanzoffia, Geum trilflorum, Polemonium carneum.  https://xeraplants.com/

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