



Tahoe Friendly Plants

UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe



What is a Tahoe Friendly Plant?



A *Tahoe Friendly Plant* is either a native or adapted plant that fits well within our Tahoe ecosystem.

What is Native? A plant species is actually native to the ecoregion where it has evolved in concert with soils, climate, fauna and other members of the plant community. This process of adaptation and evolution is ongoing and helps to perpetuate species even as conditions change.

What is Adapted? Adapted plants are not native and not invasive but are able to thrive in the local climate and soil conditions.



Tahoe Friendly
Plants in your
yard & garden



Ease of maintenance...

Utilizing native and adapted plants in your garden will require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides and will ideally thrive in your Tahoe yards and gardens.

Of course we still need to follow the rule of right plant right place...

Few planting tips...



Right Plant Right Place

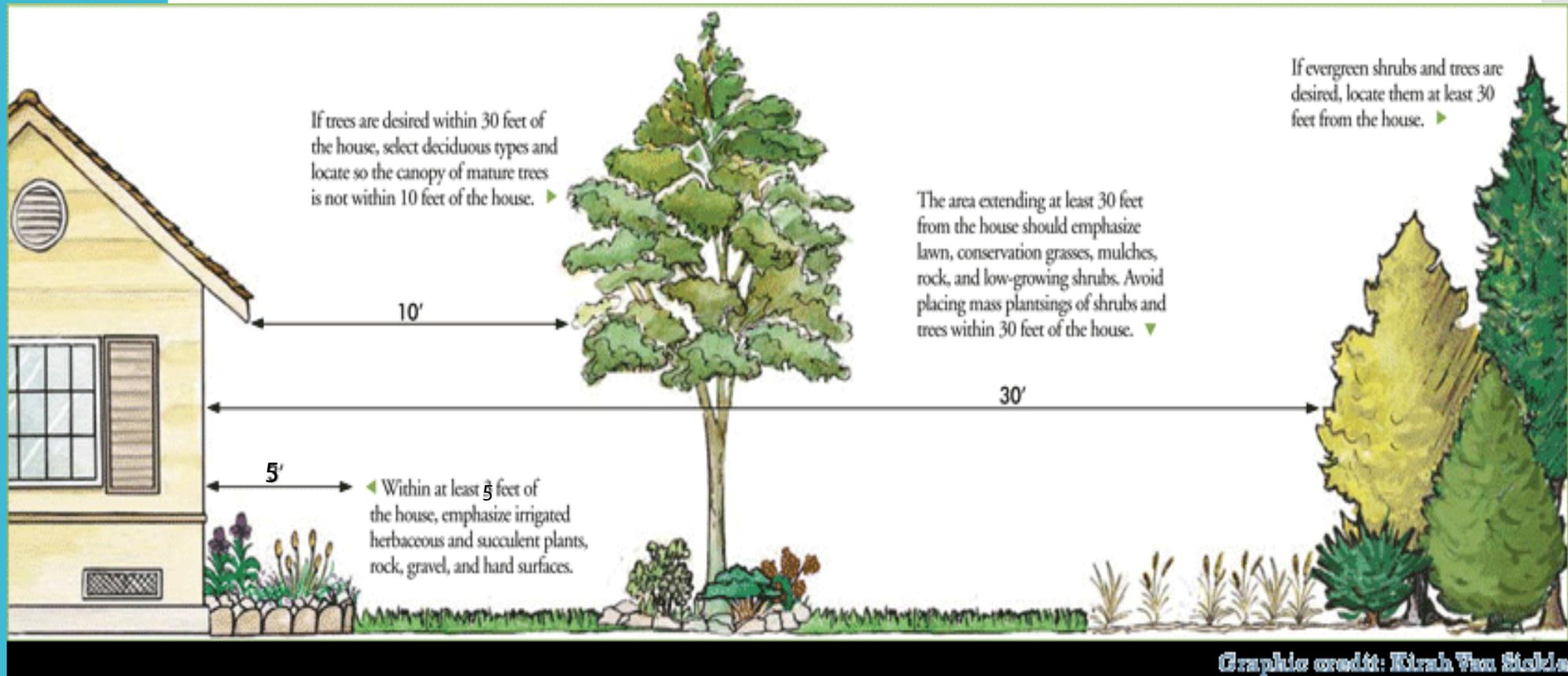
- **Fire Adapted Gardening:** Don't plant any woody plants within the 0-5 ft zone of any structure. For the most part all the plants listed in this power point are ok but you should still always be cautious in that Zone 1 (0-5 ft area)
- **Plant groupings:** Arrange plants that have similar attributes to one another so that they are getting the right amount of water, sun and soil needs. Also, you can group for staggered blooms and colors.
- **Water needs/Irrigation:** have a plan on how and when you are going to water before putting anything in the ground.

Fire Adapted Gardening

Zone 1: 0-5 ft

Zone 2: 5-10 ft

Zone 3: 10-30 ft.





Full Sun

These plants need six hours or more in direct sunlight during the growing season. Less light will typically result in less growth and bloom production.





Arnica

Arnica chamissonis

Native Plant

Tolerates partial
shade

Needs medium soil
moisture





Heartleaf Arnica

Arnica cordifolia

Native Plant

Tolerates partial
shade

Needs medium soil
moisture



Aster, Western Mountain

Aster occidentalis

Native (4 to Tahoe)
& Adapted Plant

Tolerates partial
shade

Needs medium soil
moisture





Baby's Breath

Gypsophilia spp.

Adapted Plant

Classic bouquet
filler

Needs medium soil
moisture





Bee Balm

Monarda hybrids

Adapted plant

Can tolerate partial shade

Fragrant flowers

Attracts hummingbirds

Needs medium soil moisture





Blanketflower

Gaillardia aristata

Adapted plant

Can tolerate partial shade

Needs dry to medium soil moisture





Blue Fescue

Festuca glauca
(*F. cinerea*)

Adapted plant

Grass groundcover

Can tolerate partial shade

Good rock garden plant

Needs moderate to medium soil moisture





Blue Oat Grass

Helictotrichon sempervirens

Adapted plant

Tolerates regular
shade

Needs regular soil
moisture

Slow growing,
clumping grass

2-3 ft. tall





Candytuft

Iberis sempervirens

Adapted plant

Tolerates regular shade

Good rock garden groundcover

Good companion with phlox

Fragrant flowers

Needs moderate to medium soil moisture





Catmint

Nepeta spp.

Adapted plant

Tolerates regular shade

Drought tolerant

Fragrant

Size variants 6" – 4 ft.





Cinquefoil

Potentilla hybrids

Native and Adapted
varieties

Groundcovers to
shrubs

Needs medium to
wet soils





Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

Adapted

Relatively easy to grow reaches 2 ft.

Drought tolerant

Attracts pollinators

Needs medium to wet soils





Coreopsis cultivars

Coreopsis hybrids

Adapted

Commonly called
'tickseed'

Relatively easy to
grow member of the
sunflower family

Needs dry to medium
soils (do not need
amendments)





Daisy, Coulter's *Erigeron hybrids*

Native and Adapted

Shrubby flowers

Tolerates partial
shade

Needs medium to wet
soils





Daylily

Hemerocallis hybrids

Native and Adapted

Tolerates partial
shade

Many varieties and
colors

Needs medium soil
moisture





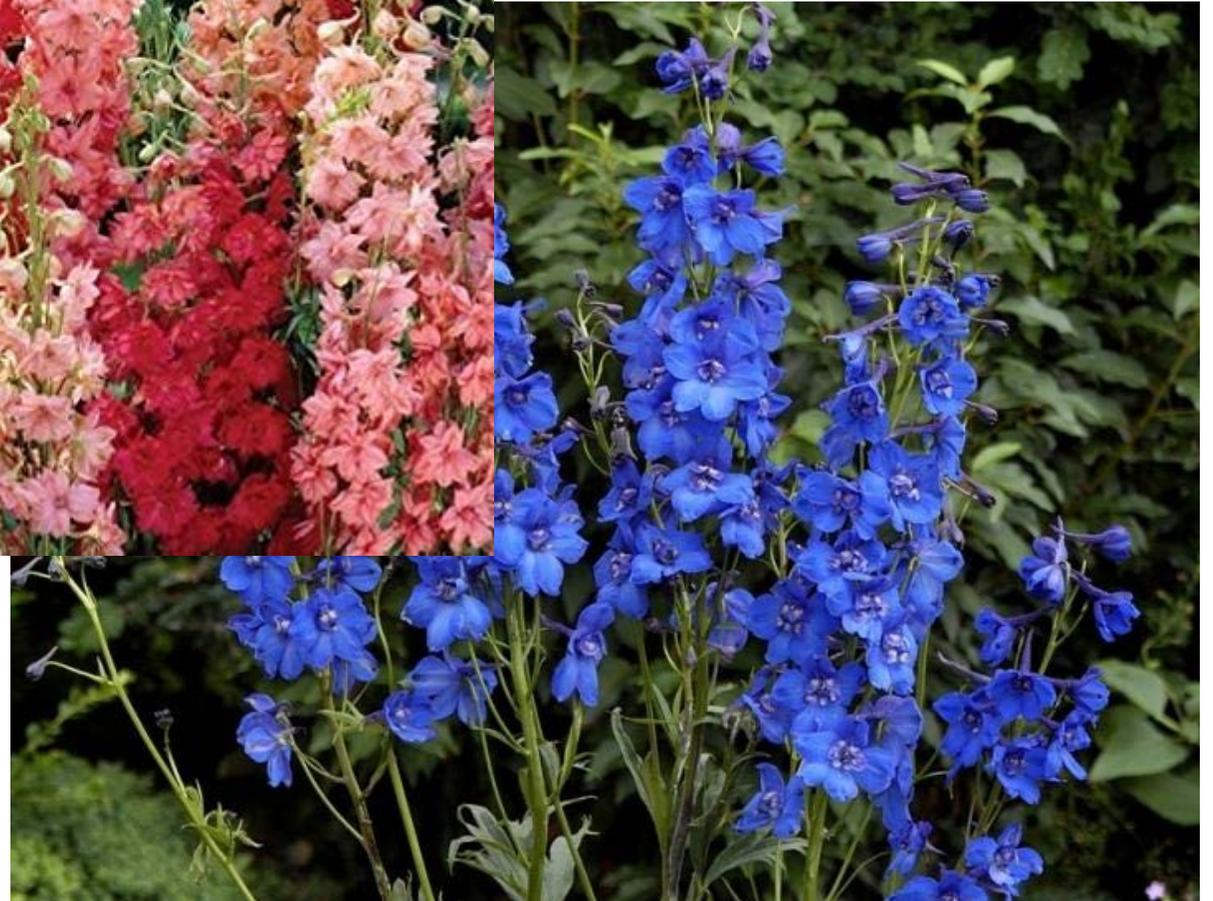
Delphinium

Delphinium hybrids

Native and Adapted

Needs medium to wet soil moisture

Many varieties and colors





Dusty Miller

Artemisia hybrids

Adapted

Tolerates partial
shade

Good groundcover

Fragrant

Self-sows freely

Light to moderate soil
moisture





Blue Flax

Linum lewisii

Native

Partial shade

Self-sows freely

Blue flowers

Dry to moderate soil
moisture





Foxglove

Digitalis hybrids

Adapted

Tolerates partial shade

Attracts pollinators

Grows to 2-3 ft tall

Needs moderate soil moisture





Fuschia, California

Zauschneria californica

Adapted

Needs dry to moderate
soil moisture

Attracts hummingbirds





Gayfeather

Liatris spicata

Adapted

Self sows freely

Attracts pollinators

Needs medium to wet soil





Geum

Geum chilense

Adapted

Drought tolerant

Needs good drainage

Reaches 1-2 ft. tall

Needs moderate to medium soil moisture

Many colors and varieties





Gilia (Star or Scarlet)

Ipomopsis aggregata

Native

Tolerates partial shade

Often difficult to grow

Biennial

Needs low to moderate
soil moisture

Commonly called
skyrocket





Globeflower

Trollius

Adapted

Tolerates partial
shade

Needs moderate to
medium water





Hops

Humulus

Adapted

Fast growing
perennial vine

Can grow up to 15 ft.

Needs mediums soil
moisture





Iris, Hartweg's

Iris hybrids

Native & Adapted

Tolerates partial shade

Needs mediums to wet
soil moisture





Japanese Blood Grass

Imperata cylindrical 'Rubra'

Adapted

Drought tolerant

Clumping grass

Good fall color

Needs medium soil
moisture





Joe-Pye Weed

Eupatorium purpureum

Adapted

Attracts pollinators

May be hard to find locally

Tolerates part shade

Needs moderate to medium soil moisture





Lamb's Ear

Stachys byzantina

Adapted

Very competitive

Drought tolerant

Tolerates part shade

Needs dry to medium soil moisture

White soft leaves with pink flowers

Good border plant to keep out rabbits and other garden pests





Larkspur, Mountain

Delphinium glaucum

Native & Adapted

Sun to part shade

Needs wet soil moisture

Can grow 3-4 ft. tall

Blue flowers





Lupine

Lupinus spp.

Native & Adapted

Tolerates part shade

Needs dry to medium soil moisture

Native species: *Lupinus breweri* is a good native groundcover option. Commonly called brewer's lupine.





Mallow

Malva alcea

Adapted

Easy to grow

Needs good drainage

Drought tolerant

Needs moderate soil moisture.





Pennyroyal

Monardella odoratissima

Native

Foliage herb

Difficult to grow

Needs dry soils

Can be toxic to dogs if ingested

Many medicinal properties for humans





Penstemon, Azure

Penstemon hybrids

Native & Adapted

Good rock garden plant

Needs dry to medium
soil moisture

P. heterodoxus is a good
groundcover





Peony

Paeonia hybrids

Adapted

Doesn't transplant well

Tolerates partial shade

Fragrant flowers

Requires well drained soil and needs wet soil





Phlox, summer

Phlox hybrids

Native & Adapted

Sun to partial shade

Needs dry to moderate
soil moisture





Pincushion flower

Scabiosa caucasica

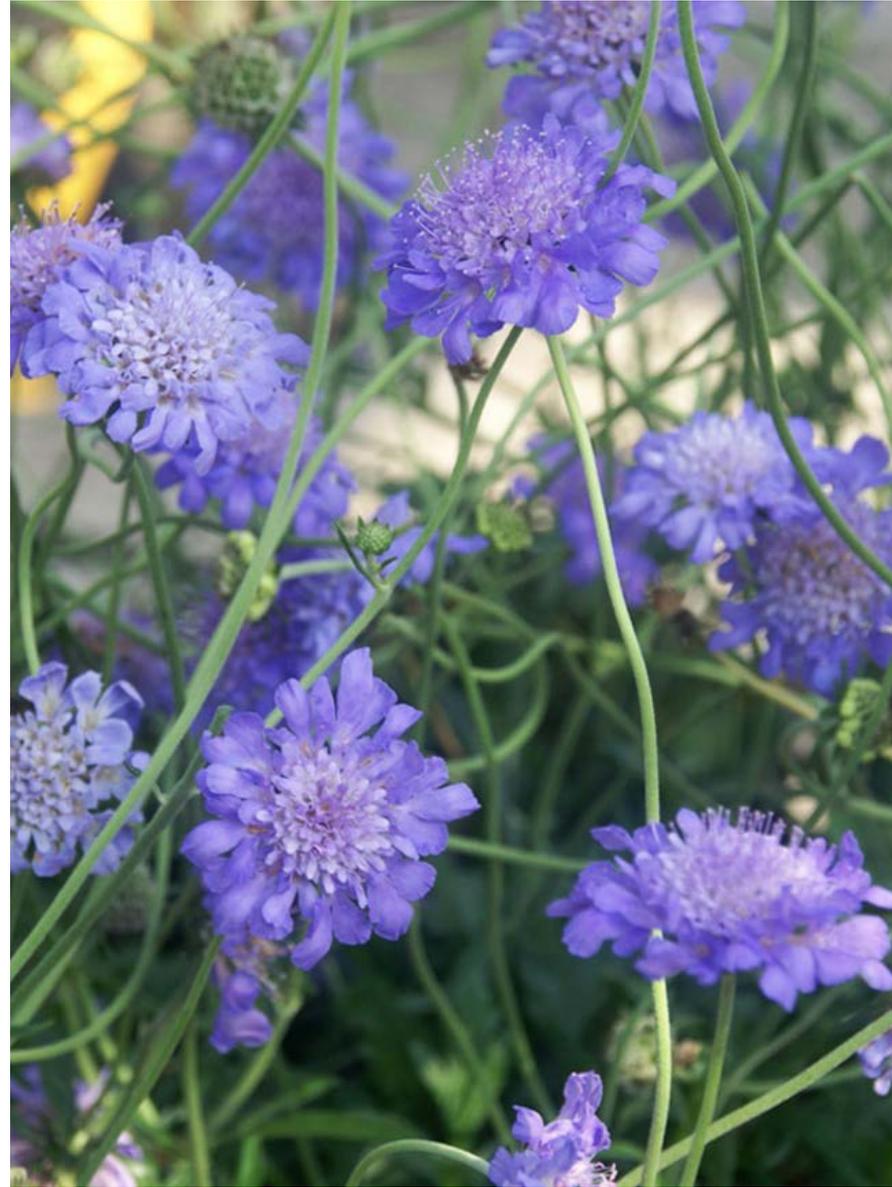
Adapted

Low growing plant

Blooms most of summer

Needs well drained soil

Needs moderate to medium soil moisture





Pink, Chinese *Dianthus chinensis*

Adapted

Tolerates partial shade

Thrives in light, well
draining soil

Good groundcover

Needs moderate soil
moisture





Poppy, California

Eschscholzia californica

Adapted

Tolerates partial shade

Drought tolerant

Reseeds easily

Annual

Needs medium soil
moisture





Poppy, Oriental

Papaver orientale

Adapted

Tolerates partial shade

Needs medium soil
moisture





Primrose

Primula spp.

Adapted

Plant in organically
enriched, well drained
soil

Needs medium soil
moisture





Red-Hot Poker

Kniphofia uvaria

Adapted

Attracts birds

Drought tolerant

Needs dry to medium
soil moisture





Saxifrage

Saxifraga bryophora

Native

Tolerates partial shade

Good rock garden plant

Needs medium to wet
soil moisture





Sea Holly

Eryngium amethystinum

Adapted

Drought tolerant

Prefers dry well-drained soil

Can handle poor to moderate soil moisture





Sibbaldia

Sibbaldia spp.

Adapted

Tolerates partial shade
good rock garden plant

Needs medium soil
moisture





Snow in Summer

Cerastium tomentosum

Adapted

Good plant for rock gardens, groundcover or as edging

Drought tolerant

Needs well drained soil





Speedwell, Pink Woolly

Veronica incana

Adapted

Good groundcover

Drought tolerant

Needs dry to medium soil moisture





Stonecrop

Sedum spp.

Native and adapted

Tolerates partial shade

Attracts pollinators

Succulent perennial

Groundcover varieties available

Easy to grow

Can sustain dry soils





Strawberry, Mountain

Fragaria virginiana

Native

Tolerates partial
shade

Good groundcover

Needs medium to wet
soil moisture





Sulfur Buckwheat

Eriogonum umbellatum

Native

Drought tolerant

Good rock garden
plant

Needs little to
moderate soil
moisture





Sweet William

Dianthus barbatus

Adapted

Good rock garden
plant

Attracts butterflies

Many cultivars
available

Needs moderate soil
moisture





Wallflower, Siberian
Erysimum hieraciifolium

Adapted

Tolerates partial
shade

Good groundcover

Needs medium soil
moisture





Yarrow

Achillea hybrids

Adapted

'Moonshine' is not aggressive and requires less maintenance than other varieties

Tolerates partial shade

Attracts butterflies

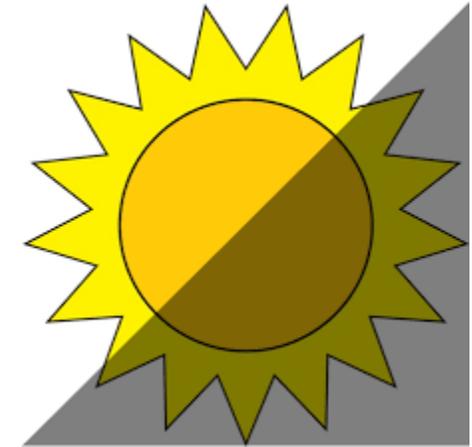
Drought tolerant

Needs dry to medium soil moisture





Partial Shade



These plants can survive in an area with filtered sun instead of direct sun. If plants do get direct sun it is usually early or late in the day.



Alumroot or Coral Bells

Heuchera spp.

Native and adapted
Attractive foliage and
flowering groundcover
Needs wet to medium
soil moisture





Black Snakeroot

*Cimifuga (Actaea)
racemosa*

Adapted

Needs moist, well
drained soils





Bleeding Heart

Dicentra hybrids

Adapted

Tolerates shade

Self-sows freely

Needs medium soil
moisture





Campanula, Bellflower

Campanula hybrids

Adapted

Full sun in cooler
climates

Will spread once they
start growing

Needs moderate to
regular water.





Cinquefoil, Spring *Potentilla neumanniana*

Adapted

Full sun in cooler
climates

Will spread once they
start growing

Needs moderate to
regular water.





Columbine

Aquilegia hybrids

Adapted

Attracts hummingbirds

Needs well drained soils
with medium soil
moisture





Common Thrift

Armeria maritima

Adapted

Good rock garden plant

Needs wet to medium
soil moisture





Cranesbill

Geranium himalayense

Adapted

Good rock garden plant

Self- sows freely

Needs moist to well
drained soils





Creeping Buttercup

Ranunculus repens

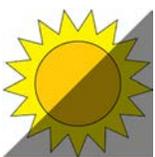
Adapted

Sun to shade

Easy growing
groundcover

Needs regular soil
moisture





Herman's Pride

Lamiaeum galeobdolon

Adapted

Partial shade to full shade

Good rock garden plant and groundcover

Drought tolerant

Needs regular soil moisture





Jacob's Ladder

Polemonium occidentale

Native

Attracts butterflies

Needs regular soil
moisture





Lady's Mantle

Alchemilla mollis

Adapted

Sun to partial shade

Good groundcover

Needs medium soil
moisture





Ligularia, Ragwort

Ligularia dentate

Adapted

Needs moist soils



Maiden Grass

Miscanthus sinensis

'Gracillimus'

Adapted

Sun or partial shade

Needs regular to moderate moisture





Meadow Rue

Thalictrum

Adapted

Likes winter chill

Protect it from wind

Attracts butterflies

Needs regular soil moisture





Meadowsweet

Filipendula

Adapted

Sun to partial shade

Needs medium to
wet soil moisture





Monkshood
Actonium hybrids

Native & Adapted

Partial shade to
shade

Needs medium to
wet soil moisture





Plantain Lily

Hosta hybrids

Adapted

Partial shade to
shade

Needs medium soil
moisture





Rhubarb, Ornamental *Rheum*

Adapted

Grows extremely
well in Tahoe

Tolerates sun and
needs regular water





Strawberry, wood

Fragaria vesca

Adapted

Good rock garden
plant

Needs medium to
wet soil moisture



Thimbleberry

Rubus parviflorus

Adapted

Needs good drainage

Needs medium soil
moisture

Drought tolerant

White flowers with red
berries

Deciduous groundcover





Thyme
Thymus hybrids

Adapted

Drought tolerant

Attracts pollinators

Fragrant and needs
little to moderate
soil moisture





Shade

These plants can survive and germinate under low light conditions. Most of the shade plants can tolerate partial sun. Shade plants also tend to need a little more water. If possible, try and keep snow around them as long as possible which can help with limiting water needs.

Astilbe, False Spirea
Astilbe spp.

Adapted

Needs medium soil
moisture

Prefer rich organic
soil

Also commonly
called False Goat's
Beard



Bracken, Fern
Pteridium aquilinum

Native

Summer & fall
deciduous

Partial to full shade

Needs medium to
wet soil moisture



Lily of the Valley
Convallaria majalis

Adapted

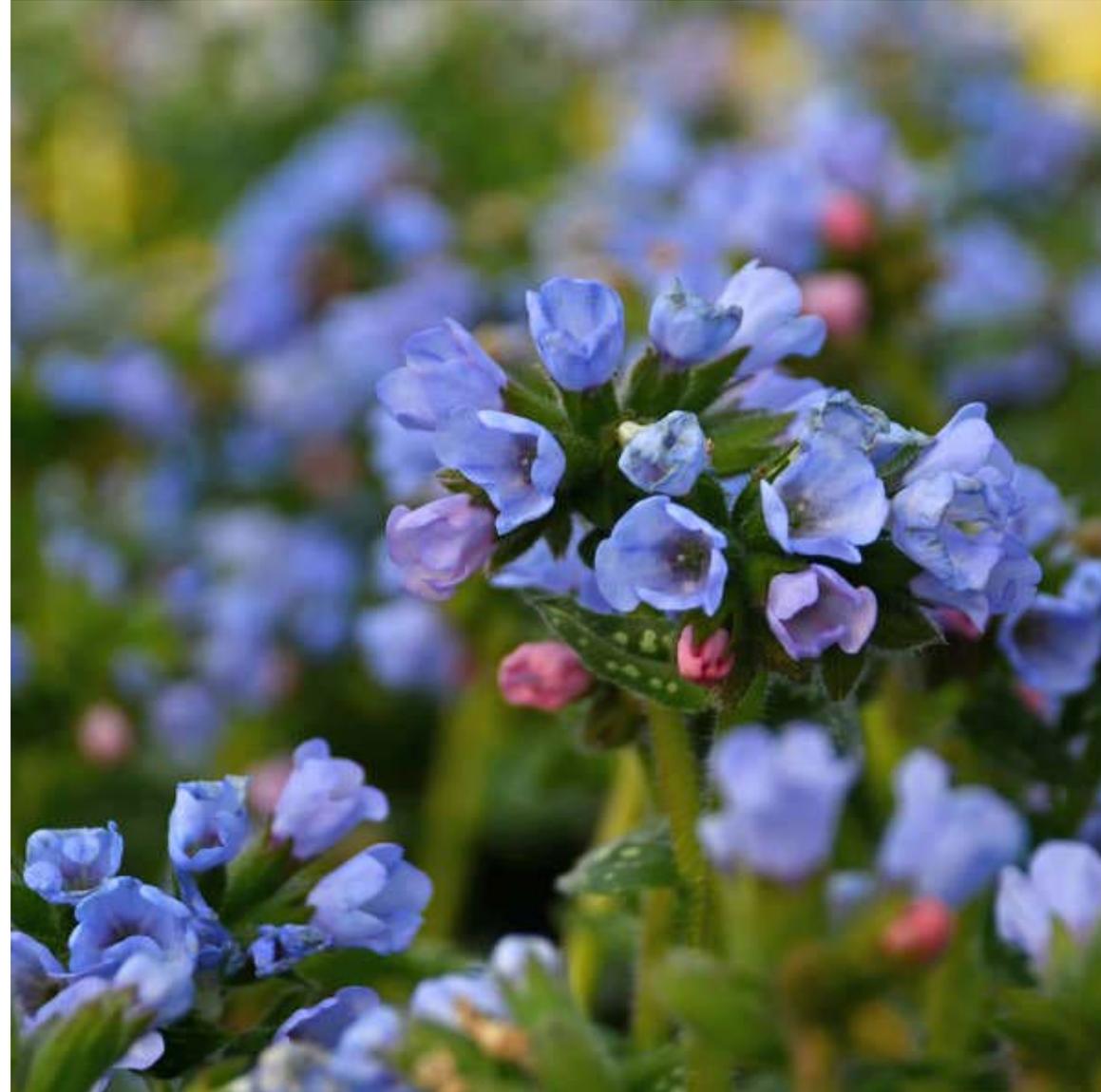
Needs medium to
wet soil moisture



Lungwort
Pulmonaria

Adapted

Needs medium to
wet soil moisture



Monkeyflower
Mimulus spp.

Adapted and native

Tolerates partial sun

Groundcover

Needs wet soil
moisture



Solomon's Seal
Polygonatum

Adapted

Partial to full shade

Needs medium soil
moisture



Spiderwort

Tradescantia virginiana

Adapted

Sun or shade

Self sows freely

Attracts butterflies

Needs medium soil
moisture



Sweet Woodruff,
Bedstraw
Asperula odorata

Native

Flowering
groundcover

Needs medium soil
moisture



Virginia Chain Fern
Woodwardia virginica

Adapted

Needs medium soil
moisture



Wood Fern
Dryopteris

Adapted

Partial to full shade

Needs medium to
wet soil moisture





Deciduous Trees & Shrubs

ADD

Aspen

Populus tremuloides

Native

Full sun

Gorgeous fall colors

Spreads by root suckers, forms groves
(be careful not to plant near sewer lines)

Needs regular soil moisture



Birch
Betulla spp.

Adapted

Check zones for
individual species

Needs regular soil
moisture





This plant is a high fire risk. It should not be planted within Zone 1 (0-5 ft) and Zone 2 (5 – 10 ft) of your home or structure.

Bitterbrush

Purshia tridentata

Native

Sun

Attracts birds, beneficial insects & pollinators

Drought tolerant

Needs low soil moisture

Reduce & separate individual plants

Keep free of pine needles and dead branches





This plant should not be planted within Zone 1 (0-5 ft) of your home or structure.

Bittercherry

Prunus emarginata

Native

Needs moderate soil
moisture

Limit next to structures

Moderate growth rate

Often forms thickets so will
need to be maintained

Sun or part shade





This plant should not be planted within Zone 1 (0-5 ft) of your home or structure.

Bittercherry

Prunus emarginata

Native

Needs moderate soil
moisture

Limit next to structures

Moderate growth rate

Often forms thickets so will
need to be maintained

Sun or part shade



Blue Elderberry

Prunus emarginata

Native

Full sun to part shade

Attracts birds, beneficial
insects and pollinators

Needs regular water

Herbaceous growth dies
back to the ground every
winter



Burning Bush

Euonymus alatus

Adapted

Attracts birds

Good fall color

Drought tolerant

Needs moderate to regular water



Butterfly Bush

Buddleja

Adapted

Sun or light shade

Moderate to regular
water



Cherry, flowering
Prunus

Adapted

Sun to partial shade

Spring flowers

Moderate water

Fragrant flowers



Chokeberry

Aronia melanocarpa

Adapted

Partial sun to sun

Fall color and berries

Medium to wet soil

Drought tolerant

Attracts birds,
pollinators, and
beneficial insects



Chokecherry
Prunus virginiana

Native

Berries

Attracts birds, pollinators,
and beneficial insects.



Cinquefoil

Potentilla fruticosa

Native and adapted

Sun to partial shade

Flowering

Medium to wet soil

Attracts birds, pollinators,
and beneficial insects



Creambush,
(oceanspray)
Holodiscus discolor

Native

Sun to partial shade

Flowering

Dry to medium soil
moisture

Attracts birds, pollinators,
and beneficial insects.



Creeping Snowberry
Symphoricarpos mollis

Full sun to shade

Occasional deep watering

Attracts birds, pollinators,
and beneficial insects.



Dogwood

Cornus

Adapted and native

Partial shade

Large variety of shrubs
and trees

Regular water

Attracts birds, pollinators,
and beneficial insects.



Golden Currant

Ribes aureum

Sun to partial shade

Flowers and berries

Medium to dry soil
moisture

Attracts birds,
pollinators, and
beneficial insects.



Golden Chain Tree

Laburnum x watereri 'Vossii'

Adapted

Sun to partial shade

Yellow chains of
flowers

All parts poisonous

Medium soil moisture



Hawthorn, Washington

Laburnum x watereri 'Vossii'

Adapted

Sun to part shade

Good specimen tree for
spring flowers and fall
color

Moderate soil moisture

Attracts birds,
pollinators, and
beneficial insects



Honeysuckle

Lonicera

Adapted

Attracts birds

Sun to partial shade

Moderate to regular
water

Fragrant flowers

Drought tolerant



Maple

Acer spp.

Adapted

Shade to full sun

Moderate to regular
water

Check zones for
individual species



Maple, Vine
Acer circinatum

Adapted

Shade

Attracts birds,
pollinators & beneficial
insects

Needs medium to wet
soil moisture



Mock Orange, California

Philadelphus lewisii

Native

Light shade

Moderate water

Attracts birds,
pollinators, and
beneficial insects



Mock Orange, Sweet

Philadelphus coronarius

Adapted

Partial shade

Must have good
drainage

Needs moderate to
regular soil moisture



Mountain Alder

Alnus incana 'tenuifolia'

Native

Sun to partial shade

Small tree

Needs wet soil



Mountain Ash *Sorbus spp.*

Native and adapted
Partial shade to shade
Small tree or shrub
Medium to wet soil
Attracts birds,
pollinators, and
beneficial insects





This plant is a high fire risk. It should not be planted within Zone 1 (0-5 ft) and Zone 2 (5 – 10 ft) of your home or structure.

Mountain Whitethorn

Ceanothus cordulatus

Full sun to light shade

Little or no water

Drought tolerant

High fire hazard

Attracts birds,
pollinators, and
beneficial insects.



Nine Bark

Physocarpus capitatus

Native

Sun to partial shade

Moderate to regular
soil moisture

Fragrant white flowers

Drought tolerant

Attracts birds,
pollinators, and
beneficial insects



Oak
Quercus spp

Native & Adapted

Sun to partial shade

Needs moderate soil
moisture

Fall color



Plum, Purple leaf or
Flowering

Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpurea'

Adapted

Sun to partial shade

Good specimen for tree
fall color

Needs medium soil
moisture



Rose, Rugosa

Rosa Rugosa

Adapted

Disease resistant

Naturalizes

Needs medium soil
moisture



Rose, Woods

Rosa Woodsii

Native

Establishes quickly on
disturbed sites

Needs medium soil
moisture

Attracts birds



Serviceberry
Amelanchier hybrids

Native & Adapted

Sun to shade

Needs medium soil
moisture

Attracts birds



Sierra Current

Ribes Nevadense

Native

Sun to partial shade

Flowers & berries

Needs dry to medium
soil moisture

Attracts birds,
beneficial insects and
pollinators



Sierra Gooseberry

Ribes roezlii var. *roezlii*

Native

Sun to partial shade

Flowers & berries

Moderate soil moisture

Good fall color

1-3 ft tall



Snowberry

Symphoricarpos spp

Native & Adapted

Sun to shade

White berries

Medium soil moisture

Attracts birds,
beneficial insects and
pollinators



Spiraea

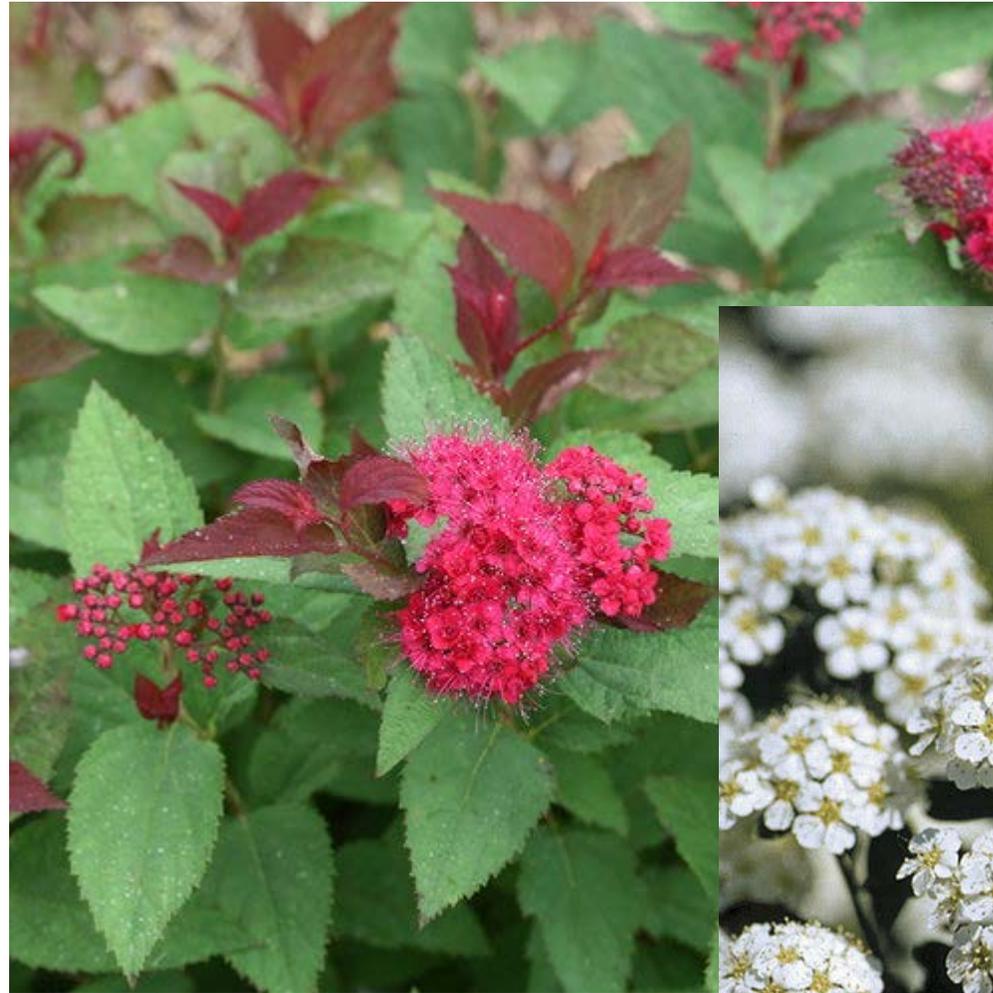
Spiraea hybrids

Adapted

Partial shade

Needs medium soil
moisture

Flowers



Spiraea, Mountain

Spiraea densiflora

Native

Full sun to light
shade

Needs medium soil
moisture

Flowers

Attracts birds,
pollinators and
beneficial insects



Spiraea, Western

Spiraea douglasii

Native

Full sun to light
shade

Needs medium soil
moisture

Flowers

Attracts birds,
pollinators and
beneficial insects



Twinberry

Lonicera involucrata

Native

Partial shade to shade

Needs medium to wet
soil moisture

Attractive berries

Drought tolerant

Attracts birds, bees &
butterflies



Viburnum

Viburnum hybrids

Adapted

Sun to part shade

Flowers & berries

Attracts birds

Needs medium soil
moisture



Western SandCherry

Prunus besseyi

Adapted

Can handle a lot or a little of everything

Ideal plant

Needs moderate soil moisture

Can be drought tolerant



Willow

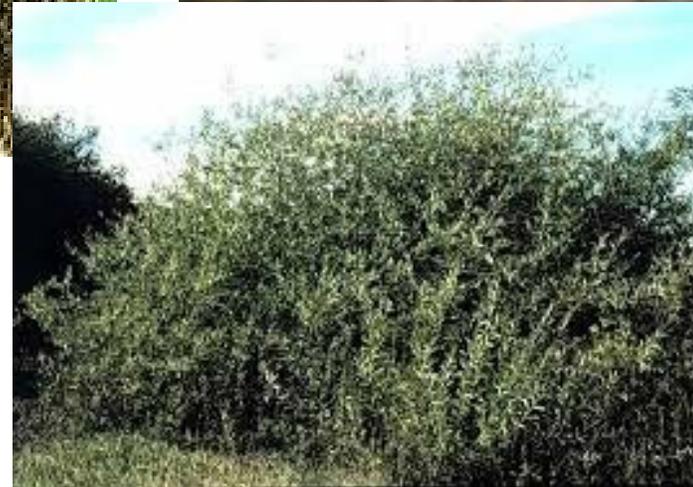
Salix

Native & Adapted

Part to full shade

Ideal plant

Needs wet to medium
soil moisture



Resources

- UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Friendly Gardening Program, http://ucanr.edu/sites/mglaketahoe/Tahoe_Friendly_Garden_Program/
- University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Living with Fire Program, <http://www.livingwithfire.info> and Choosing the Right Plants Guide, <http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2007/ebo7o1.pdf>
- South Tahoe Public Utility District, Water Conservation Program. <http://stpud.us/waterconsv/>
- Tahoe Resource Conservation District, Landscape Conservation Program, <http://tahoercd.org/> and Backyard Native Plants Guide: http://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Backyard-Native-Plants-Booklet_High-Quality.pdf
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Home Landscaping Guide for Lake Tahoe, <https://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2006/ebo6o1.pdf>
- Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, Tahoe Green Thumb Forum, <http://ntcd.org/tahoe-green-thumb-forum/>

UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe

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https://ucanr.edu/sites/mglaketahoe/Tahoe_Friendly_Garden_Program/

