

Best Perennials for Nevada County

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What is a Perennial?

- A plant that lives more than two years and flowers and seeds year after year, sometimes for many years
- In general, there are two types of perennials, either herbaceous or woody:
 1. Herbaceous – a subset of deciduous herbaceous (non-woody) stems that die back every year to the ground and return in the Spring (e.g., peonies)
 2. Woody – deciduous or evergreen (e.g., trees & shrubs)



There are three plant cycles (from seed to maturity or death)

1. Annuals – complete life cycle in one year
2. Biennials – complete life cycle in two years (roots and leaves 1st year, flowers 2nd year)
3. Perennials – categorized as either short-lived or long-lived (2 years to a lifetime)



Patience

- Think roots, shoots, then flowers
- Best planted in the fall
 - Cooler temps give roots a chance to grow before winter sets in
 - The first year the plants are growing both roots and then vegetative growth
 - Second & third year plant is established and begins to flower and fruit



Right Plant in the Right Place

- Size at maturity
- Site selected should have plants with similar needs:
 - Light (full sun, part sun or combination)
 - Water
 - even Natives needs water their first year
 - Planting in fall lets Mother Nature help you out
- Soil Test is recommended (can be purchased at nurseries or sent to A & L Western Lab)
- Know your Zone – check USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map with your zip code. <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov> or on page 43/44 in our Western Sierra Foothills Garden Guide



My Top Perennials

1. Acer, Maple
2. Baptisia australis, Wild Indigo
3. Cerastostigma plumbaginoides, Dwarf Plumbago
4. Dahlia, Dahlia pinnata
5. Coneflower, Echinacea purpurea
6. Hibiscus moscheutos
7. Pistacia chinensis, Chinese Pistache
8. Hosta sieboldiana (sieboldii), Plaintain Lily
9. Lupinus, Lupine
10. Monarda, Bee Balm
11. Phlomis fruticosa, Jerusalem Sage
12. Salvia guarantica, Salvia Black & Blue
13. Achillea, Yarrow
14. Scabiosa caucasica 'Fama Blue' and Scabiosa atropurpurea, Black Knight, Salmon Queen, Summer Sangria
15. Veronica peduncularis 'Georgia Blue' (umbrosa), Speedwell, Veronica longifolia
16. Viburnum bonarensis 'Vanity,' Viburnum davidii, Viburnum macrocephalum
17. Brunnera macrophylla, Siberin Bugloss
18. Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster,' Feather Reed Grass
19. Miscanthus sinensis, Silver Grass
20. Clematis armandii, Evergreen Clematis and Clematis spp.
21. Echinops ritro, Globe Thistle and Eryngium planum, Sea Holly
22. Paeonia officinalis, Peony
23. Hydrangea quercifolia, Oak Leaf Hydrangea,
24. Papaver orientale, Oriental Poppy



Herbaceous Perennials

- Paeonia, Peony
- Salvia/Sage
- Achillea, Yarrow
- Aquilegia, Columbine
- Monarda, Bee Balm
- Hosta, Plaintain Lily
- Rudbeckia, Black-eyed Susan
- Veronica spp.
- Verbena spp.



Herbaceous Perennials

- Asters, *Symphyotrichum* spp.
- Geranium spp., Cranesbill, Hardy Geranium
- *Echinacea* spp., Coneflower
- *Hibiscus moscheutos*, Perennial Hibiscus
- *Eutrochium* spp., Joe-Pye Weed
- *Paeonia* spp., Peony, Itoh Peony, Tree Peony
- *Helleborus orientalis*, Lenten Rose
- *Baptisia australis*, Wild Indigo



Cerastostigma plumbinoides, Dwarf Plumbago; Cranesbill spp., Hardy Geranium & Veronica spp., Speedwell



Scabiosa caucasica & Scabiosa atropurpurea, Pincushion Flower



Echinops ritro, Globe Thistle & Eryngium planum, Sea Holly



Paeonia, Peony, Red Charm, Bowl of Beauty; Bartzella (Itoh), Tree Peonies



Dahlia pinnata



Helleborus orientalis, Lenten Rose

- Very tough evergreen shade plant
- Early late winter/early spring flowering
- Deer/rabbit resistant
- Drought tolerant
- Toxic



Hibiscus moscheutos



Eutrochium purpureum, Joe-Pye Weed

- Full sun/afternoon shade, 4-7' tall
- Great pollinator plant
- Deer resistant
- Beautiful flowers
- Needs regular water



Plants I just need to include

- *Clematis ternifolia*, Sweet Autumn Clematis, vigorous
- *Veronica longifolia*, *Veronica spicata*, many colors, tough perennial, front of the border, deadhead



Trees

- Acer, Maples
- *Cotinus coggygria*, Purple Smoke Tree
- Pistacia, Chinese Pistache
- *Holodiscus*, Cream Bush, Native
- Cornus, Dogwood



Maples, *Acer palmatum* and *Acer rubrum*

Japanese Maple, needs protection from wind and afternoon sun, darker the leaf the more sun it can take, likes water until well established, then water well in high heat.

Maple, full sun (6+)/PS, well drained, likes average water, leaf color fabulous



Cotinus coggygria, Purple Smoke Tree

- Full sun
- Tall shrub or small tree 6-16'
- Beautiful color plumes & fluffy, smoke like flowers
- Drought tolerant/deer resistant



Pistacia chinensis, Chinese Pistache

- Full sun
- Beautiful form once mature
- Drought tolerant
- Gorgeous fall color
- Moderate growth to 25-35'



Holodiscus discolor, Cream Bush

- Native
- Full sun/part shade
- Tolerant of variety of soils
- Pollinator plant
- Summer bloom



Cornus spp., Dogwood

- Partial shade deciduous tree
- Understory tree/native
- Others can take more sun
- Needs moderate/high water
- Well-draining/slightly acidic soil
- Gorgeous blooms/fall color
- Pacific dogwood native to Pacific Northwest
- Kousa Dogwood, Florida, Pacific
- Flowers actually bracts emerge before leaves



Shrubs

- Viburnum
- Salvia/Sage
- Baptisia, Wild Indigo
- Caryopteris, Blue Beard
- Hydrangea quercifolia, Oakleaf Hydrangea
- Fremontedendron, Flannel Bush



Viburnum davidii, Viburnum macrocephalum & Viburnum bonarensis 'Vanity'

- Full sun (4-5 hours) to filtered sun all day
- Deer resistant/low care
- Soil tolerant (V. davidii likes acidic soil)
- Blue berries/white flowers on some



Salvia (also known as Sage)

S. macrophylla 'Hot Lips,' *S. greggii*,
S. guarantica, Black & Blue Salvia

- Full sun
- Drought tolerant
- Deer/rabbit resistant (not all)



Baptisia australis, False Blue Indigo and B. australis 'Goldfinch'

- Full sun
- Long-lived shrub
- Beautiful flowers
- Drought tolerant
- Deer resistant
- Likes neutral soil
- Attracts butterflies



Caryopteris x clandonensis, Bluebeard

- Many new cultivars/varieties
'Blue Mist' (cultivar name)
- Full sun
- Drought tolerant/deer & rabbit resistant
- Late summer/fall bloom
- Pollinator plant



Hydrangea quercifolia, Oak Leaf Hydrangea



- Fabulous deciduous hydrangea that takes much less care than most hydrangeas.
- Dramatic flower heads start white, turn to cream/peach, then brown, persist until cut off.
- Interest 3 seasons, flowers in spring, summer green leaves, fall color. More flowers with some sun. Cut back after flowering in late summer, fall.
- Height: 6 – 8.' Not deer resistant.

Fremontedendron californicum, Flannel Bush

- No summer water once established
- Large specimen plant
- Native
- Fast growing
- Full sun
- Tough, mostly pest free



Grasses

- Calamagrostis Karl Foerster, Feather Reed Grass
- Pennisetum alopecuroides, Fountain Grass
- Chasmanthium latifolium, Northern Sea Oats
- Miscanthis sinensis, Silver Grass



Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'; Pennisetum, Fountain Grass; Chasmanthium latifolium, Northern Sea Oats; Miscanthus sinensis, Silver Grass



Vines

- Clematis spp.
- Trachelospermum jasminoides, Star Jasmine
- Actinidia, Kiwi
- Hydrangea petiolaris, Climbing Hydrangea
- Lonicera, Honeysuckle
- Bignonia, Trumpet Vine
- Rosa, Rose



Clematis spp., Evergreen Clematis (*armandii*), Trachelospermum jasminoides, Star Jasmine; Actinidia, Kiwi



Vines/climbers

Hydrangea petiolaris, Climbing hydrangea; Lonicera periclymenum, Honeysuckle; Campsis radicans, Trumpet Vine; Rosa, Rose



Perennial Vegetables

- Asparagus
- Sorrel
- Rhubarb
- Artichoke
- Jerusalem Artichoke

