Dr. Love's Favorite Native Plants and Where to Buy Them

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This list was derived from evaluations and observations made at the Aberdeen R & E Center and elsewhere in southern Idaho. It can be considered as a list of recommended plants for use in landscaping within the interior Northwest. Most of these plants will thrive anywhere in Idaho, from the deserts of the south, to the adjacent high country, and somewhat drier sites in the panhandle.

This list contains only names and descriptions. To see pictures of these plants, access your favorite search engine on the internet (Google, Yahoo, etc.), press the "Images" button above the search box, then search the scientific name (e.g. "Acer glabrum" for Rocky Mountain maple). This should provide plenty of pictures to give you a feel for the beauty of these plants, and help you decide which ones to purchase.

The "sources" column in the list contains company abbreviations (e.g. TCN stands for Trail Creek Nursery). This information can be cross-referenced to the company contact information contained at the end of this document. Companies listed as a source include that plant in their latest catalog or species list. This is no guarantee of current availability.

		GBR, NWN, NXP, POW, PPL, WLN	woody plants in the landscape and has nice yellow fall color Tolerates shade. Can take normal irrigation but needs supplemental water in a dry garden.
Acer grandidentatum	Bigtooth maple	DWF, FFN, FNP, GBR, NXP, PPL, WLN	This is the tree that gives SE Idaho canyons the bright red color in the fall. Small to medium in size (to 30’ tall). This is an outstanding tree for any landscape. Needs a

Picea engelmannii	Engelmann spruce	BBF, FFN, FNP, GBR, NWN, POW, PSW, TCN, WLN	A very large evergreen tree (to 100' tall) with a somewhat open structure. Very good in windbreaks or large open spaces. Grows well in typical garden conditions and needs fairly regular irrigation in dry regions.
Pinus aristata or Pinus longaeva	Bristlecone pine	FFN, FNP, GBN, NWN, PPL, PSW, TCN, WLN	Slow growth and contorted shape makes this an interesting specimen in the yard. It will eventually grow to be 30' tall, or more. Grows well in a traditional landscape but will have more interesting shape in a dry garden. Needs a little supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.
Pinus edulis Pinus monophylla	Pinyon pine	FFN, FNP, NXP, PPL, PSW, WLN	Beautiful small pine (to 20' tall) with rounded form. The growth is dense and color slightly bluish. The pine nuts are edible. This tree will not survive in a heavily irrigated garden and needs only occasional irrigation in the dry garden.
Pinus flexilis	Limber pine	FFN, FNP, GBR, PPL, PSW, TCN, WLN	Medium-size pine with silver bark and soft needles. Grows well in a traditional landscape. Makes a good alternative for blue spruce or Scotch pine. Needs some supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.
Pinus ponderosa	Ponderosa pine	BBF, CHP, DCN, FFN, FNP, GBR, NWN POW, PPL, PSW, WLN	Very large pine (to 100') with decorative, textured reddish bark. The needles are long and attractive. Needs lots of space but requires minimal water in the dry garden.
Quercus gambelii	Gambel Oak	DWF, FFN, FNP, GBR, PSW, WLN	This is the shrubby oak that lives on the hills above Salt Lake City. It makes a nice small tree (to 20' tall) if pruned properly. Grows well in the traditional landscape.Needs a little supplemental water in the dry garden.

Shrubs			
Amelanchier utahensis or Amelanchier alnifolia	Serviceberry	BBF, CHP, CSR, DCN, DWF, FFN, FNP, GBN, GBR, NXP, POW, PPL, PSW,RCP,TCN, WLN	A medium to tall shrub (to 15' tall but there are shorter forms) with white flowers in the spring and edible purple berries in the fall. Leaves turn red in fall. Needs some supplemental irrigation in a dry garden. Many varieties are in commerce.
Arctostaphylos patula	Greenleaf manzanita	FFN, FNP, WLN	Small shrub (to 3') with shiny, evergreen leaves and dark red bark. This is an outstanding and unique landscape plant. N Tm (a)4(n ot)-

Cornus sericea (also called Cornus stolonifera)	Red-twig dogwood	BBF, CHP, CSR, DCN, DWF, FFN, FNP, GBN,GBR, NWN, NXP, OVF, POW, PPL, PSW, RCP, TCN,WBG, WLN	A medium to tall shrub (to 10' tall) with red stems that add winter accent. The leaves turn red in fall. Can be planted in shade. Grows very well in a traditional landscape. Needs consistent irrigation in the dry garden. Many varieties are in commerce, including dwarf types.
Ericameria nauseosa	Rubber rabbitbrush	BBF, CSR,DCN, DWF, FNP, GBR, NXP, POW, PPL, PSW,RCP,WLN	A moderately small shrub (to 5' tall) with gray-green or silver leaves and bright yellow flowers. The fall flowering habit is exceptional for creating color in a xeriscape situation. This plant can thrive in the dry garden without supplemental irrigation.
Eriogonum corymbosum	Lacy buckwheat	PSW	A shrubby plant (to 2' tall) that develops into a wiry sphere of tiny white or pink flowers. Blooms in late summer and into the fall. Can withstand very dry conditions with little or no irrigation in the dry garden.
Holodiscus dumosus or Holodiscus discolor	Rockspray (rock spirea)	BBF, CHP, DCN, FFN, FNP, GBR, NWN, POW,PSW, RCP,TCN, WBG, WLN	A medium to tall shrub (to 8' tall) that produces masses of white flowers in early to mid-summer. Some plants produce nice reddish fall color. Can be planted in shade. Needs some supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.
Juniperis communis Juniperis occidentalis	Juniper	FFN, FNP, GBR, PPL, SRP, TCN	Evergreen shrubs that come in many forms, from creeping to 6' tall. Many have more interesting foliage than their non-native counterparts. Needs very little

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Mahonia repens	Creeping Oregon grape	BBR, CHP, CSR, DCN, FFN, FNP, GBR, POW, PPL, PSW, TCN	A small (to 1.5' tall) evergreen shrub with holly-like leaves. Yellow flowers give way to showy dark purple berries. Withstands shade and is an outstanding understory plant in the dry garden. Needs a little supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.
Penstemon fruticosus	Bush penstemon	BBF, CHP, DCN, DJN, DWF, GBR, MTN, PLP, PPL, RCP, WBG	A small (to 1.5' tall) shrubby form of penstemon that is covered with huge purple flowers in early spring. The foliage is evergreen. Needs some supplemental irrigation in the dry garden. Prefers a place with winter snow cover.
Philadelphus lewisii or Philadelphus microphyllus	Syringa (mockorange)	BBF, CSR, CHP, DCN, DWF, FFN, FNP, GBR, HCG, NWN, NXP, POW, PPL, PSW, RCP	A medium to tall shrub (to 15'tall) that produces large white flowers that will flood the yard with wonderful fragrance. Will grow in a traditional landscape. Needs supplemental irrigation in a dry garden. Some varieties are in commerce.
Physocarpus malvaceus	Ninebark	BBF, CSR, FFN, GBR, NWN, NXP, POW, PPL, RCP, TCN	A small to medium shrub (to 6' tall) that produces white flowers in early summer and red color in fall. It can sucker and create a thicket. It tolerates shade or full sun. Grows fine in a traditional landscape. Needs supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.
Potentilla fruticosa	Cinquefoil	BBF, DCN, DWF, FFN, GBR, MTN, OVF, POW, PPL, PSW, SRP, TCN,	A small to medium shrub (to 4' tall) with small divided leaves and summer-long yellow, white or pink flowers. Can tolerate a traditional landscape. Needs a little supplemental irrigation in the dry garden. Many varieties are in commerce.

Rhus glabra	Smooth sumac	CHP, DCN, DWF, FFN, FNP, NWN, NXP, POW, PPL, PSW, RCP, TCN, WBG	Available in both tall (5') and dwarf (1') forms. It has divided, shiny green leaves and interesting flower panicles in summer followed by exceptional fall red color. Grows fine in a traditional landscape, but may be spread and form thickets. Needs very little supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.
Rhus trilobata	Oak-leaf sumac (squawbush)		

Ornamental
Grasses

Sorghastrum nutans	Indiangrass	DWF, FFN, HCG, PPL, PSW, WBG	A tall grass (to 60” tall) with dark green leaves and stiff, upright seed heads topped by dark brown plumes. Looks better with a little supplemental irrigation. Some varieties are in commerce.
Sporobolus airoides	Alkali sacaton	FNP, GBN, HCG, PSW,	

Peremials			

Aquilegia desertorum	Desert columbine	FNP, HCG	Grows to 18” tall. One of the mos drought hardy columbines. Produces masses of red and yellow blooms in late spring and early summer. Requires minimal supplemental irrigation to survive but will bloom longer with a little water.
Aquilegia formosa	Western columbine	CBN, CSR, DCN, FFN, GBR, POW, PRN	Grows 30” tall. Nodding blooms of bright red and yellow. Grows well in light shade. May need some supplemental irrigation when grown in full sun.

Eriogonum brevicaule	Shortstem buckwheat	MTN	Grows 10” tall. A late season bloomer with dark yellow, long lasting flowers. Exceptional plant for bring lateseason color to the dry garden. Needs minimal supplemental water.
Eriogonum caespitosum	Mat buckwheat	GEO, GGR, MTN, PLP, SRP	Grows to 3” tall and spreads to 18 across. Produces small yellow pom-pom flowers in late spring. Outstanding rock garden garrrpoanofard -

Eriogonum niveum	Snowy buckwhea	DCN, POW	Grows to 24” tall. A unique buckwheat the produces flowers along much of the stem rather than in a head. Bloom period is late summer after most plants have declined. Flower color is white to pink. Needs a little supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.

Gaillardia aristata	Blanketflower	CHP, DCN, DJN, DWF, FFN, FNP, GBN, GBR, GEO, HCG, NXP, OVF, POW, PPL, PSW, TCN, WBG	Grows to 30” tall. One showiest o the native wildflowers with yellow, yellow with red center, or red sunflower-like blooms. Blooms all summer if given a little supplemental irrigation. Many varieties in commerce.
Geranium viscosissimum	Sticky geranium	BBF, CSR, DCN, DWF, GBR, GEO, NXP, POW,TCN, WBG	Grows to 20” tall. A long blooming plant with white to dark pink flowers. Grows very will in part shade. Can withstand a traditional landscape. Requires supplemental water in a dry garden.
Heuchera cylindrica	Roundleaf alumroot	DCN, GGR,PRN	Grows to 10” tall. Related to cora bells. This plant has round, bright green leaves and stiff, upright flower spikes that hold white blooms. Great rock garden plant. Needs supplemental irrigation in the dry gardena scaon 150 f* 511.56 125.

Oenothera caespitosa	Tufted evening primrose	CSR, DCN, DJN, DWF, FNP, GBN, GBR, PSW	Grows to 5” tall. A fabulous rock garden plant the produces huge white flowers that fade pink by the end of each day. Flowering continues over a long period. Requires no supplemental irrigation but a little water may extend the bloom period.
Penstemon ambiguus	Gilia beardtongue	FNP, HCG, PSW	Grows 20” tall. An unusual penstemon in that the flowers are scattered throughout the plant rather than being clustered on a spike. Also, the flowers are light pink. A nice garden plant. Needs well-drained soil and a little supplemental irrigation.
Penstemon attenuatus	Sulfur penstemon	DCN, PLP, RCP	Grows to 24” tall. One of the few yellow-flowered penstemons. Blooms for a long period in early summer. Needs a little supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.
Penstemon azureus	Azure penstemon		Grows to 20” tall. A beautiful penstemon with a shrubby growth habit, blue leaves, and intense dark blue flowers. This one is a gem. Requires a little supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.
Penstemon barbatus	Beardlip penstemon	DJN, DWF, FFN, FNP, GBN, HCG, PGN, PPL, PSW, WBG	Grows to 50” tall. Has intense red flowers and a long bloom period. A better garden plant than the similar Penstemon eatonii. Needs a little supplemental irrigation in the dry garden. A few varieties are in commerce.
Penstemon confertus	Yellow penstemon	CHP, DJN, MTN, PLP	Grows 12” tall. This is a graceful little penstemon with tiny, but numerous, light yellow flowers. Needs a little supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.

Penstemon cyananthus	Wasatch penstemon	DWF, PLP, PPL, PSW	Grows 30” tall. This plant produces the most intensely blue flowers imaginable. It blooms for about 5 weeks in late spring. Needs a little supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.
Penstemon deustus	Hot rocks penstemon	BBF, DWF, PLP, POW	Grows to 12” tall. This is one of the few white-flowered penstemons. It blooms in late spring for about a month. It will grow in the harshest of conditions and can get by with no irrigation.

Penstemon rostriflorus	Bridge's penstemon	BCG, DJN, FNP, GEO	Grows to 24" tall. This is one of the best of the tall red flowering penstemons. It is medium in height, highly branched, and blooms for a long time. Needs a little supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.
Penstemon sepalulus	Littlecup penstemon		Grows to 24" tall. Shrubby in habit. Attractive blue-green foliage gives rise to numerous light bluish-purple flowers. Blooms over a long period of time. Needs some supplemental irrigation in a dry garden.
Penstemon strictus	Rocky Mountain penstemon	BBF, CSR, DCN, DJN, DWF, FFN, FNP, GBN, HCG, OVF, POW, PPL, PSW, TCN, WBG	Grows to 18" tall. This is one of the most commonly grown penstemons. It is easy to start and is grows well in nearly any soil. It has dark blue to purple flowers. It can survive without irrigation, but will bloom better with a little water in summer.
Penstemon venustus	Venus penstemon	BBF, DCN, DJN, DWF, PLP, RCP	Grows to 36" tall. One of the best large bush penstemons. Flowers are produced in abundance and are light purple in color. Needs a little supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.
Penstemon virens	Front Range penstemon	DJN, HCG	Grows to 12" tall. A small penstemon with dark green leaves and dark blue flowers. It blooms early then often reblooms later in the year. Needs a little supplemental irrigation in the dry garden.
Ratibida columnifera	Mexican hat	DWF, FNP, GBN, GEO, HCG, PPL, PSW	Grows to 12" tall. Produces small yellow or maroon coneflowers through much of the summer and fall. Great for adding late-season color. Needs a little supplemental irrigation in a dry garden.

Sources for Purchasing Native Plants

The following companies sell landscape-ready native plants grown in containers, including plants from Dr. Love's list. Some of the businesses are located in or near Idaho communities. Others are located in surrounding states but have mail-order capability and/or internet access to plant lists and order forms. These companies can be cross-referenced with the plants on the list. Company abbreviations (Abbrev.) coincide with those present in the "Source" column of the plant list. Abbreviations preceded by "**" indicate companies with large offerings of native plants adapted to Idaho.

Abbrev.	

*FFN	Forest Farm Nursery	990 Tetherow Road Williams, OR 97544 (541) 8466963 Email: plants@forestfarm.com Web: www.forestfarm.com	Yes
*FNP	Flagstaff Native Plant & Seed	400 E Butler Ave Flagstaff, AZ 86001 (928) 7739406 Web: www.nativeplantandseed.com	Yes
*GEO	Geoscape Desert Nursery	1962 North Sparkling Place Meridian, ID 83646 (by appointment) (208) 8841251 Email: kreghines@clearwire.net	Yes
GGR	Granite Gardens Rare Plants PO Box 4050 Sonora, CA 95370	PO Box 4050 Sonora, CA 95370 (209) 5323029 Email: ggrp@sonnet.com Web: www.ggrareplants.com	Yes
*GBN	Great Basin Natives	75 W 300 S Holden, UT 84636 (801) 7684422 Web: www.greatbasinnatives.com	Yes
*GBR	Great Bear Restoration	310 N. 4th Street Hamilton, MT 59840 (406) 3635410 Web: http://www.greatbear.biz/	No
*HCG	High Country Gardens	2902 Rufina Street Santa Fe, NM 87505 (800) 9259387 Web: www.highcountrygardens.com	Yes
MTN	Mount Tahoma Nursery	28111 112th Ave E Graham, WA 98338 (253) 8479827 Email: rlupp@aol.com Web: www.backyardgardener.com/mttahoma/	Yes
*NWN	Nativeswest Nursery and Landscape	155 Falcon Ridge Kooskia, ID 83539 (888) 9267707 Email: info@nativeswest.com Web: www.nativeswest.com	No

*NXP	Native & Xeric Plants	8625 Bill Burns Road Emmett, ID 83617 (208) 3654331 Email: stew@nxplants.com Web: www.nativeandxericplants.com	No
OVF	Old Valley Farm	4557>Old Valley Road Eagle, ID 83616 (208) 9392484 Web: www.oldvalleyfarm.com	No
PGN	Paradise Gardens Rare Plant Nursery	Rte 1, Box 2630 Black Mountain Road Bonners Ferry, ID 83805 Email: info@rareplantnursery.net Web: www.rareplantnursery.net	Yes
PLP	Planet Plants		

SRP	Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery	2825 Cummings Road Medford, OR 97501 (541) 5357103 Email: customerservice@srpn.net Web: www.srpn.net	Yes
*TCN	Trail Creek Nursery	707 South Hwy 33 Victor, ID 83455 (208) 3362470 Email: carolyntcn@silverstar.com Web: www.trailcreeknursery.com	No
*WBG	Willard Bay Gardens	7095 South Hwy 89 Willard, UT 84340 (801) 7828984 Email: plants@willardbaygardens.com Web: www.willardbaygardens.com	No
*WLN	Wildland Nursery	370 E 600 N Joseph, UT 84739 (435) 5271234 Email: janett@wildlandnursery.com Web: www.wildlandnursery.com	Yes

Many native are difficult find as landscape ready plants. There are a number of excellent seed companies that sell seed of native plants. If you cannot find plants and are willing to grow your own from seed, options for expanding the plant palette are much greater. The following companies sell native plant seed. These companies are not listed with the plant lists above, but most have web based catalogues that can be perused at your convenience.

Local and Regional Sources of Native Plant Seed
In-State
Cedara Seed 118 Hwy 31 Swan Valley, ID 83449 Ph: 208483-3684 Email: delbert684@cs.com

Conservation Seeding & Restoration, Inc
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Granite Seed 1697 West 2100 North Lehi, UT 84043 Ph: 801-768-4422 Email: granite@graniteseed.com Web: www.graniteseed.com
Northwest Native Seed 915 Davis Place S Seattle, WA 98144 Email: oreonana@mbay.net
Plants of the Southwest 3095 Agua Fria Road Santa Fe, NM 87507 Ph: 800-788-7333 Email: contact@plantsofthesouthwest.com Web: www.plantsofthesouthwest.com
Rocky Mountain Rare Plants 1706 Deerpath Road Franktown, CO 80116-9462 Fax: 303-265-9305 Email: staff@rmrp.com Web: www.rmrp.com
Southwestern Native Seeds PO Box 50503 Tucson, AZ 85703 Web: www.southwesternnativeseeds.com
Western Native Seed PO Box 188 Coaldale, CO 81222 Ph: 719-942-3935 Email: info@westernnativeseed.com Web: www.westernnativeseed.com
Wind River Seed Route 1, Box 97 Manderson, WY 82432 Ph: 307-568-3361 Email: russ@windriverseed.com Web: www.windriverseed.com