

grow me  
instead



This brochure highlights Yukon's most unwanted horticultural plants, along with their recommended alternatives.

A guide for Yukon 2017

## Acknowledgments

The Yukon Invasive Species Council (YISC) would like to thank all the funding partners, the Yukon government and all the volunteers who have worked and contributed to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive species in Yukon.

## About YISC

The Yukon Invasive Species Council (YISC) is a non-profit organization that works to educate and raise awareness of the public and governments about the negative ecological, social and economic impacts of the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive species. Members include representatives from government, the private sector and industry as well as concerned residents. Together we are working on prevention, early detection and rapid response.

YISC believes that a proactive approach is needed to reduce or eliminate the spread of invasive species in Yukon. When gardeners work together, the risk of spreading invasive species from horticultural plantings can be reduced.



= invasive species



=alternative species

This guide lists plants that are not recommended for gardening, followed by recommended alternative plants that are known to flourish in Yukon gardens. Flowering plants are presented first, followed by shrubs, trees and ground covers.



*Good to grow labels direct customers to plants that are recommended alternative ornamentals.*  
*A.Altherr*

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**To report an invasive species**, contact the Yukon Invasive Species Council at [info@yukoninvasives.com](mailto:info@yukoninvasives.com). And remember to include GPS-coordinates or exact location, and if possible, a photo.

## What is Grow Me Instead about?

Grow Me Instead is a key component of the Plant Wise program initiated in British Columbia. Grow Me Instead supports gardeners and industry to reduce the spread of invasive plants.

This brochure is a tool to assist Yukon gardeners to identify invasive plants found in gardens throughout the territory and to provide information on alternative plants.

As a reference, perennials are defined as plants that live for more than one season whereas annuals only live for one season. Some plants listed below are perennials in warmer climates but are treated as annuals, being unable to survive a Yukon winter.

This brochure offers a variety of ecologically friendly alternatives available in garden centres, as well as information on ethical ways of collecting native seeds and plants.

## Introduction

Invasive plants are species that are not native to an area and have negative effects on our economy, our environment and/or our health.

In the absence of natural predators such as insects, diseases, and foraging animals, invasive plants can thrive and spread aggressively when introduced outside of their natural range. These plants can disrupt ecosystem processes and have an impact on natural and agricultural resources. Not all non-native plants become invasive, so it is important to know what you're planting!

Invasive horticultural plants are often planted for their beautiful flowers and ease to grow in a variety of conditions. Unfortunately, they can also spread rapidly from gardens into natural areas. To protect Yukon's pristine landscapes, it is best to avoid purchasing Yukon's top unwanted horticulture plants and choose the recommended alternatives instead. Support the Be Plant Wise Program!



*Oxeye Daisy are pretty but invasive!*  
*A. Altherr*

## Where did they come from?

Gardeners have a long tradition of moving plants to new regions, and the popularity of gardening has increased the importation of plants into Canada from other regions of the world. Without natural pests and predators these species can spread through their fruits, seeds or roots. Invasive plants grow rapidly, spread quickly, are tolerant of poor growing conditions and can form dense patches. When established, they displace native species and disrupt natural ecological processes in adjacent natural areas. The "invasiveness" of a plant, is affected by the plant's life history characteristics, planting zone in which it is grown and the particular growing conditions.

## I am a gardener, what can I do?

Educate yourself and others about invasive plants in Yukon. Only plant non-invasive plants. Request that nurseries only sell non-invasive plants. Organize neighbourhood weed pulls. Get involved with your community garden clubs, local conservation districts or adopt-a-garden programs.

## 10 things you can do about invasive plants:

1. Learn to recognize which plants are invasive and don't plant them. Chose alternatives from this brochure.
2. Do not purchase or grow invasive plants, seeds or plants known to be invasive in Yukon or other jurisdictions.
3. Notify your garden centre if you find them selling a plant that is known to be invasive.
4. If you identify an invasive species, remove all of the plant parts and dispose of them appropriately.
5. Avoid wildflower seed mixes, they may contain invasive species.
6. Do not transplant plants from other regions without knowing if they are invasive or not.
7. Avoid letting invasive plants fruit or go to seed, as birds and animals could then spread the plants to other areas.
8. Do not dispose of garden waste in your compost if you suspect invasive plant material is present in your garden.
9. Grow regional native plants in your garden. They are naturally adapted to the local environment.
10. Discourage friends and neighbours from growing invasive species. Tell them about the impacts of invasive plants and the use of suitable alternatives.

## How to dispose of invasive plants:

- Place plants and plant parts in a clear plastic bag and leave to roast in the sun to kill the seed. Many plants continue to produce seed even after getting pulled or if the flower is dead-headed (e.g daisies, thistles etc.).
- Bring plastic bags to the landfill to be buried as soon as possible.
- Please note, not all plant seeds will be killed by the burning temperatures.
- “Recycling” garden debris into a park or wild area could result in the spread of invasive species.
- Avoid composting invasive plants, as this may not kill them. See the Why Should I Care? booklet (YISC 2011).

## Someone is happy you have aphids

### Greenhouse operators: Be aware

Unfortunately Lady Beetles sold in stores are non-native species which act aggressively and compete with native species. For example, in Eastern Canada the non-native Seven-spotted Lady Beetle is thought to have caused the near extirpation of native Transverse Lady Beetles. The Transverse Lady Beetle was once common and broadly distributed throughout most of Canada. Over the last ten years it remains absent in areas it was formerly common or continues to be detected in low numbers. However, in the northern and western parts of its range, this species is abundant and common



*Left: Introduced Seven-spotted Lady Beetle (C. Wong)*  
*Right: Native Transverse Lady Beetle (A. Altherr)*



## Four questions to ask about a new plant:

**“Will the plant be invasive outside my garden?”** Many plant traits that are desirable to gardeners – such as easy germination and establishment, tolerance to drought or frost, rapid growth and abundant seed production – enable a plant species to become invasive.

**“If I order a plant from outside Yukon, could it be invasive in my environment?”** It is possible, although there may be a lag phase before a plant becomes invasive.

**“What do I need to know from my local nursery or garden centre?”** Find out if a plant is a “fast spreader” or a “vigorous self-seeder” in your planting zone. If so, these are warning signs that the species may be invasive. Investigate if the plant is known to be invasive elsewhere around the world.

**“Is there an alternate plant I can use instead of one with the potential to become invasive?”** Check the availability of alternative, non-invasive plants suitable for your area.

## Using this guide

**Symbols** are used to indicate sun, partial shade and shade tolerance.



### Distribution maps

These maps show known sites of the invasive plants. Maps are courtesy of Yukon Government, based on data available March 2017.

**noxious:** plant species that have been designated by law.

## References:

Alaska Natural Heritage Program. 2015. Alaska Center for Conservation Science. University of Alaska Anchorage. <http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/>.

Cornell University Woody Plants Database. 2015. <http://web.woodyplants-database.org/home>.

E-flora. Electronic Atlas of the Flora of British Columbia. 2015. <http://ibis.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/eflora/>.

Invasive Plant Council of BC. 2015. Beautiful in your garden, but be aware (brochure).

UAF Cooperative Extension Service. 2014. State of Alaska - Division of Agriculture Plant Materials Center.



## Russian Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia vigata*)



Russian Leafy Spurge is a deep-rooted perennial with tiny greenish-yellow flowers. It is one of North America's top 10 invasive plants. It is toxic to humans, livestock and wildlife when consumed or when the latex (sap) contacts skin. Russian Leafy Spurge can multiply by flowering shoots from the root system and seeds. It is considered noxious throughout most of its range including BC and Alaska.



## Coloured Yarrow (*Achillea* cultivars)



Yarrow is an easy perennial, growing in nearly any sunny situation. This midsized selection features clusters of blooms in a lovely combination of yellow, orange and pinky-red. The ferny grey-green foliage forms a low mound. Great for cutting and drying. Yarrow prefers average or dry to moist soil in full sun. Seeds from native yarrow (white flowers) can be collected in late fall.



## Wallflowers (*Erysimum* spp.)



Wallflowers are a popular herb among gardeners. This annual herb grows less than 1 m in height and is an early season bloomer with a strong fragrance. The flowers can be yellow, orange, red, pink, purple or brown. Wallflowers prefer well-drained dry soils and sites with sun or partial sun.



## Columbines (*Aquilegia* cultivars)



Columbines are easy to grow perennial herbs that thrive in both sun and shade. They prefer moist, well-drained soil. The bell-shaped flowers bloom in a variety of colours and are suitable for cut-flower arrangements. Columbines are easily started from seed and will readily multiply once established.





## Common Toadflax

(*Linaria vulgaris*)



**Invasive - Avoid Use**

Common Toadflax or Butter and Eggs looks like a non-threatening herb with dainty, snapdragon-like flowers, but it can aggressively spread by roots or by the abundant seed it produces. It is widely found in gardens and invading roadsides throughout Yukon communities. It is widespread in the Whitehorse and Dawson areas, and along the South Canol Road in the Quiet Lake area, Watson Lake and Haines Junction. It is typically less than 50 cm tall, persistent and mildly toxic; it is a restricted noxious weed in Alaska.



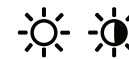
Both Common and Dalmatian toadflax are known to suppress native grasses and perennials. They contain glucoside that is moderately poisonous to livestock. They are known to alter local pollination ecology and reduce yields in croplands. Butter and Eggs reproduces both by seed and roots. Smaller patches can be removed through repeated pulling before seed development. See “How to dispose of invasive plants” for more information.

## Annual Snapdragons

(*Antirrhinum* spp.)

Annual Snapdragons are perennial herbs in warmer climates but grown as summer annuals in cooler climates. The plants are bushy, with flower spikes up to 90 cm tall. Dwarf cultivars are more compact. Flowers on spur types produce nectar, and attract hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. They prefer moist, well-drained soil in sun or partial shade.

Caution: yellow cultivars look similar to invasive toadflaxes.

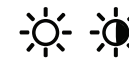


## Daylily

(*Heremacallis* spp.)

Daylilies are long-lived, tufted perennial herbs with grassy green foliage and upright stems of large trumpet gold-orange flowers. They can grow up to 80 cm tall and are popular for use in accent or border gardens. Daylilies prefer full sun or partial shade average to dry soil with a pH ranging from alkaline to acidic.

Tiger Lily is also recommended.

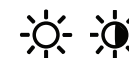


## Yellow Monkshood

(*Aconitum anthora*)

Yellow Monkshood is a delicate herb that blooms mid to late season. The yellow flowers, similar in appearance to snapdragons, grow on spikes up to 90 cm tall and are attractive in borders or mass plantings. Yellow Monkshood is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds. It tolerates moist soils and prefers partial sun or partial shade.

This plant should be handled with care as it contains poisonous alkaloids.





## Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)



Common Tansy is an attractive robust perennial herb that grows up to 150 cm tall and forms flat-topped, dense clusters of bright yellow, button-like flowers. Originally introduced from Europe as an ornamental and a medicinal herb, it has insecticidal properties, and was once used for embalming. It creates havoc for gardeners when trying to control its spread, because it spreads by underground roots as well as seed. The plant emits a strong pungent smell when crushed and is mildly toxic. Wear gloves when removing.



It can be found growing in sunny and moist locations such as stream banks, ditches and gardens in Whitehorse, Marsh Lake, Kathleen Lake and the Alaska, Klondike, and Robert Campbell highways. All known Yukon infestations have been small and have been controlled by pulling but larger plants may have to be dug up with a shovel. The seeds of Common Tansy continue to mature after pulling. See “How to dispose of invasive plants” for more information. Common Tansy is a noxious weed in BC.

## Pot Marigold

(*Calendula officinalis*)

Sometimes grown as an herb, cheerful calendulas look good in every garden. Calendula grows up to 60 cm tall. The cream, yellow, apricot, or orange flowers are edible, can be used in healing salves and are great as cut flowers. These cool season annuals like a variety of soils but need good drainage and moderate water. Calendula attracts birds, are good for containers and are low maintenance. Collect mature seeds for sowing the following year.



## Blanket Flowers

(*Gaillardia* spp.)

This herbaceous perennial is native to dry-land areas of North America and is of interest as a garden border because of its very long season of bloom. The lax stems are 20 to 70 cm tall and carry numerous 6 cm diameter reddish brown-centred, yellow-rayed flowers from June until autumn. They are easy to grow in sunny and well-drained locations.



## Beach Fleabane

(*Senecio pseudoarnica*)

Also known as Beach Groundsel, this herbaceous perennial herb grows up to 90 cm tall and has yellow ray and disc flowers on individual erect stems. The Beach Fleabane prefers moist to dry soils and full sun.





## Bladder Campion (*Silene vulgaris*)



**Invasive - Avoid Use**

Bladder Campion is a hairless, perennial herb that grows up to 90 cm tall from a woody rootstock. Delicate white flowers are slightly larger than 1 cm wide and found in clusters at the end of the stem.

Introduced to North America from Europe, Bladder Campion is now found in Canada and the United States. It grows on sandy soil or gravel, but can also be found on loamy soil. Bladder Campion competes with native species for moisture, nutrients and sunlight and crowds out other plants. Bladder Campion reproduce by seeds and roots. Buried seeds can remain viable in the soil bank for several years. See “How to dispose of invasive plants” for more information.



## Blue Flax

(*Linum perenne*)

Blue Flax is a favorite perennial herb, performing especially well in hot, sunny areas. It grows 40 – 60 cm tall, has ferny green leaves and bears several small, azure-blue flowers that attract butterflies. Although each flower lasts only one day, they are produced in such abundance that plants flower for weeks on end. Blue Flax is excellent for edging, rock gardens or in mixed containers. It prefers neutral to alkaline, well-drained soil and once established is drought tolerant. Short-lived in the north, it is usually treated as an annual.



## Gayfeather

(*Liatriis mucronata*)

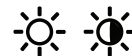
Gayfeather has small blossoms forming tight clusters of pink to purple flowers on upright stems reaching 60 cm in height. Blooming in mid to late summer, Gayfeather prefers dry to moist soil and full sun. While grown as a perennial in warmer climates, Gayfeather is grown as an annual herb in cooler climates.



## Creeping Thyme

(*Thymus serpyllum*)

Creeping Thyme is a pretty pink/mauve spreading perennial ground cover. It grows in low dense mats with pretty pink/mauve fragrant flowers that attract bees. It is tolerant of light foot traffic. Suitable for rock gardens.





## Mountain Bluet (*Centaurea montana*)



B. Pagacz

**Invasive - Avoid Use**

Native to the mountains of Europe, Mountain Bluet is a prized ornamental for its adaptability, large, bright blue flowers and ability to self-seed in gardens; however, in Canada it is considered aggressive and invasive. It is the largest of the blue flowering knapweeds (25-80 cm tall).

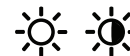


Mountain Bluet can reproduce by seeds and rhizomes. This species prefers disturbed areas and has been seen growing along roadsides, disturbed areas and woodlands in Alaska and northern BC including Atlin and Tagish Lake. It has not been found in Yukon yet. See "How to dispose of invasive plants" for more information.

## Alliums

(*Allium* spp.)

Alliums, such as nodding onion have clusters of lilac flowers, small edible bulbs and 30 cm tall edible foliage that has a taste similar to chives or garlic. It is an easy perennial herb that self-seeds, and tolerates some shade and drought. Other varieties, such as common chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*, *A. tuberosum*), are known to be extremely hardy in the north.



Dow Gardens, Bugwood.org

## Alpine Aster

(*Aster alpinus*)

Alpine Aster is a native perennial herb of Yukon growing up to 24 cm tall. Leaves are spoon shaped. The flowers are like small white daisies, but can also be violet or lavender. This plant prefers moist to dry alkaline soil in sunny or partially shaded areas.

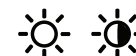


A. Altherr

## Common Harebell

(*Campanula rotundifolia*)

A diminutive native perennial with pretty, lavender-blue bells on wiry stems with short, green grassy foliage. Flowers in mid-summer and prefers moist, well-drained, even rocky soils, in sunny or partially shaded locations.



B. Legler



## Bird Vetch (*Vicia cracca*)



**Invasive - Avoid Use**

Bird Vetch is a delicate climbing or trailing plant with tendrils that allow it to attach to other plants or objects. The distinct violet-purple flowers are arranged in a one-sided spike that turn into brown or grey-black seed pods. It can grow up to 150 cm tall. Stems are weak and hairy with twirly tendrils at the ends of leaf branches. Bird Vetch grows aggressively, and will choke-out native vegetation. If allowed to establish, it can require years of effort to control. See “How to dispose of invasive plants” for more information.



## Speedwells

(*Veronica* spp.)

Speedwells are summer blooming perennial herbs with blue, pink or white flowers in slender spikes above narrow dark green leaves. Available cultivars vary in size (15 to 50 cm tall) and flower colour. They are excellent for container gardens, prefer full sun and will often re-bloom after deadheading. There are several native species found in the Yukon such as American (*V. americana*), Alpine (*V. wormskjoldii*) and Skullcap (*V. scutellata*) speedwells.



M. Harte, Bugwood.org

## Cranesbills

(*Geranium* spp.)

Cranesbill Geraniums are valuable fillers for garden colour in early to mid-summer. You can find them in a variety of flower colours including burgundy, blue, royal purple, light pink and white. Plants range in size but generally grow up to 45 cm. Cranesbill adds a mounded splash of spring and summer color with very little maintenance. They do well under trees, flourish in full sun and tend to prefer moist and well-drained soil. This perennial is treated like an annual in Yukon because it is not frost-hardy.



H.B. Herbert, Bugwood.org

## Western Blue Iris

(*Iris missouriensis*)

Western Blue Iris is a perennial herb native to western North America and grows up to 50 cm tall. The flowers are light to deep blue with purple veins. This plant prefers rich, moist soils in sunny locations. Pollinators including bees and butterflies are attracted to this plant.



W.M. Ciesla, Bugwood.org



## Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)



**Invasive - Avoid Use**

Orange Hawkweed is a hardy perennial herb growing up to 90 cm tall with striking orange dandelion-like flowers. Originally from Europe, Orange Hawkweed was imported widely as an ornamental but has escaped cultivation and is now considered a noxious weed in many parts of the world. Don't be tempted by its bright, orange flowers! This species is not garden worthy.



Individual plants can produce hundreds of viable seeds that are distributed by wind to new locations. Orange Hawkweed can also spread vegetatively (by stolons and rhizomes) to form dense mats and out-compete native species and reduce the forage values of grasslands. Orange Hawkweed exists along the roadside of the Haines Highway but has not been found in Yukon yet. Unlike many invasive species, it can invade undisturbed sites and is therefore considered one of the worst nuisance species in Alaska and British Columbia and is classified as a noxious weed in these jurisdictions

## Maltese Cross

(*Lychnis chalconica*)

The Maltese Cross is a rugged and easy-growing perennial herb for garden borders. Plants form upright clumps of bright green leaves with tall stems up to 45 cm tall that bear large clusters of scarlet-orange flowers. Attractive to butterflies, this plant prefers full sun and a wide range of soil types.



A. Korzun

## Sunflowers

(*Helianthus* spp.)

With their cheery yellow-orange ray blooms, sunflowers are fun to grow singly or en-masse. Grow these tall annuals (1 m tall) against a fence or building for support and as a backdrop to other plants. Grown by seed, this species prefers full sun and moist well-drained soil. Although bees are the primary pollinators of sunflowers, other insects and even small birds assist with pollination.

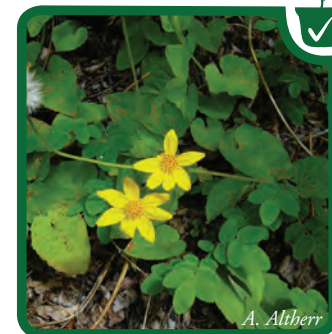


USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

## Heart-leaved Arnica

(*Arnica cordifolia*)

A densely hairy native perennial herb with heart-shaped leaves and bright yellow daisy-like flowers forms clumps and flowers throughout the summer. Suitable for dry or moist well-drained soil in sunny locations. This plant is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds.



A. Altherr



## Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)



**Invasive - Avoid Use**

Oxeye Daisy is popular with gardeners for its attractive flowers and ability to grow under poor conditions. It is a shallow rooted perennial herb with numerous 30 cm to 90 cm tall stems. It is native to Siberia and Europe, and was introduced to North America from Europe as an ornamental plant. It is still commonly sold in “wildflower” mixes, but is highly invasive as it escapes from ornamental plantings. Oxeye Daisy is classified as a noxious weed in BC. It has been found in the communities of Dawson, Watson Lake, Whitehorse, Haines Junction, along the Alaska Highway at Johnson’s Crossing, Morley and Rancheria rivers, and along the Haines Road and in the Mount Lorne community. Oxeye Daisy contains polyacetylenes and thiophenes that are highly toxic to insects and herbivores. Oxeye Daisy can spread both by seeds and roots. A single plant can produce up to 4,000 seeds per year remaining viable in the soil for up to 20 years.



## Gazania

(*Gazania* spp.)

Gazanias bear boldly coloured daisy-shaped flowers and blooms mid-summer till frost. It grows up to 15 cm tall and prefers full sun. This is a hearty herb that tolerates poor soil and dry conditions. This plant, generally known as a perennial, is treated like an annual in the north.



*W.M. Ciesla, Bugwood.org*

## Rudbeckia

(*Rudbeckia* spp.)

Rudbeckia, also known as Cone Flower or Black-eyed Susan, is a biennial perennial herb with ray and disk flowers that have dark brown discs and bright yellow-orange rays. Tall coneflowers grow up to 3 m tall and the young leaves are edible and excellent in raw salads. Black-eyed Susan can grow up to 1 m tall. Rudbeckia prefers moist to dry soils in sun or partial shade.



*W. VanDyk Evans, Bugwood.org*

## Ligularia

(*Ligularia* spp.)

Ligularia or Leopard Plant, is a perennial, decorative plant in the aster family. Ligularia have glossy, deep green foliage with a purple underside. These are tall plants with showy orange-yellow to yellow flowers and large leaves. Ligularia prefers moist, well-draining rich soil in shade or partial shade.



*Dow Gardens, Bugwood.org*



## Siberian Peashrub or Caragana

(*Caragana arborescens*)



A. Altherr

**Invasive - Avoid Use**

Siberian Peashrub was introduced from Siberia to North America for erosion control and as an ornamental plant. It is grown in Yukon and has been reported to have escaped cultivation into adjacent forested areas.

Siberian Peashrub is a hardy, woody, deciduous shrub or small tree growing up to 5 m high and spreads up to 3 m wide. Plants usually have multiple stems arising from root crowns. Stems have greenish/grey bark. Leaves are alternate and pinnately compound with 6 to 16 leaflets per leaf. Showy yellow snapdragon shaped flowers adorn the branches in early spring. Seed pods are green, flattened and about 5 cm long. At maturity, the pods become more cylindrical and brownish until they open forcefully. It prefers full sun, and well-drained soil, but can tolerate many growing conditions. Siberian Peashrub reproduces by seed and shoots from root crowns.

Siberian Peashrub can significantly reduce populations of native shrubs and grasses in mixed birch-spruce forests and can replace native shrubs in the understories of deciduous forests in Canada by forming dense thickets.



## Haskap

(*Lonicera caerulea*)

Haskap is a fruit bearing shrub, growing 1.5 – 2 m. Leaves are opposite, oval 3 – 8 cm long with a slightly waxy texture. Flowers are yellowish-white, 12 – 16 mm long with five equal lobes. The fruit is a blue coloured, elongated berry about 1 cm in diameter. The taste of the Haskap berry is unique and has been compared to a combination of blueberry and raspberry with a hint of elderberry. This cold hardy shrub is tolerant up to -45° C and flowers have been known to set fruit after withstanding -11° C temperatures.



O. Jerzy

## Villosa Lilac

(*Syringa villosa*)

This deciduous shrub can grow up to 3 m tall and spread 2 m wide. It is a bushy, dense rounded shrub with rosy lilac to white flowers appearing in late May and June. This variety prefers full sun for best flowering and can tolerate acid to alkaline soil. Villosa Lilac prefers moist, well-drained soil, but can tolerate occasional periods of drought.



A. Altherr

## Prickly Rose

(*Rosa acicularis*)

Native species excellent for open, sunny sites and for barrier or hedgerow planting. Prickly Rose has beautiful, fragrant pink flowers 5 to 7 cm across, and small bright red hips. It spreads in well-drained soil by creeping rhizomes to form dense colonies of 1 to 1.5 m tall stems. The fragrant flowers attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies, beetles and flies. There are also horticultural varieties that can be purchased in garden centres.



A. Altherr



## Wildflower Mixes (Pre-packaged)



**Invasive - Avoid Use**

Many “Wildflower” mixes contain seeds of non-native plant species, which may be invasive. Contents are rarely listed accurately by scientific names. The wide variety of common names used for some plants adds to the confusion. Never purchase a seed mix without the packet being clearly labeled with scientific names. Make your own “wildflower” mix. Try Lupine, Blue Flax or Fireweed.



*Fireweed (Chamerion angustifolium)*

*A. Altberr*

## Native Plant Species as an Alternative:

Why grow native plants? Native plants occur naturally; over many generations, they have adapted to the local climate, and are better suited to the soil conditions, elevation and wildlife in the area. Native plant species often help to reduce water use, minimize weeding and other garden maintenance, and improve garden soil (Invasive Plant Council of BC 2015).

Native plants provide food and shelter for native birds, insects and other creatures. In turn, they help with the pollination and survival of native plant species.

Collection of seed and/or plants for gardens is an activity that can be very satisfying for all horticulturists. You should have a very clear idea of the species you wish to collect and this can include a variety of shrubs, trees, ground covers, native grasses and wetland plants. Be aware of where you are collecting plants and seeds; do not collect on private land without the permission of the property owner, or in National or Territorial Parks. If harvesting on crown land, check local regulations for necessary permits and licences.

Timing is important. Early spring and fall are the best times for collecting whole plants while mid-summer and fall are optimum time for seed collection depending on the species. If possible, visit plant populations regularly to check seed ripeness and availability.

## Ethics of Plant and Seed Collection

If you plan to collect native plants and/or seeds for your garden, practice the following ethical guidelines:

- Avoid rare or fragile habitats.
- Know the plants of the area before collection; only collect common species or those with a large population.
- Collect undamaged ripe seed or cuttings.
- Leave at least 50% of the seed in place to allow natural propagation, and to provide food for small mammals, birds and insects.
- Collect minimal amounts (from no more than 10% of the plants) in the areas that may be subjected to further collecting by other interested gardeners.
- Leave an area to rest for at least two years between collections if possible.
- Avoid driving to collection areas which can cause rutting; walk into the area and take a picnic!



# Some native and other alternative plants suitable for growing include:



Common Name	Botanical Name	Growth Form	Colour	Height	Soil/ Moisture Use	Sun
<b>Violet</b>	<i>Viola</i> spp.	perennial	various coloured flowers	15-20 cm	normal/sandy/clay, neutral/alkaline/acid, average/moist soil	sunny/part shade
<b>Columbine</b>	<i>Aquilegia</i> cultivars	short-lived perennial	various coloured flowers	45-75 cm	normal, neutral/alkaline/acid, well-drained, moist/dry soil	sunny/part shade
<b>Yarrow</b>	<i>Achillea</i> cultivars	perennial	various coloured flowers	45-60 cm	normal/sandy/clay, neutral/alkaline/acid, average/dry/moist soil	sunny
<b>Fireweed</b>	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	perennial	magenta/pink flowers	30-90 cm	normal/sandy/clay, neutral/alkaline/acid, well-drained moist soil	part shade
<b>Bear Root</b>	<i>Hedysarum</i> ssp.	perennial	pink/purple flowers	60-90 cm	sandy, well-drained moist soil	sunny
<b>Lupine</b>	<i>Lupinus</i> spp.	perennial	blue/purple flowers	30-90 cm	mineral/sandy, neutral/alkaline/acid, well-drained dry/moist soil	sunny
<b>Jacob's Ladder</b>	<i>Polemonium</i> cultivars	perennial	purple flowers	45-60 cm	normal, neutral/alkaline/acid, moist, well-drained soil	sunny/part shade
<b>Spiraea</b>	<i>Spiraea</i> cultivars	perennial	white flowers	75-90 cm	sandy/clay, neutral/alkaline/acid, average/moist soil	part shade
<b>Dwarf Birch</b>	<i>Betula glandulosa/nana</i>	shrub	n/a	<2 m	sandy/clay, neutral/alkaline/acid, average/moist soil	sunny
<b>Bleeding Heart</b>	<i>Lamprocapnos spectabilis</i>	perennial	pink	up to 2 m	well-drained, slightly acidic soil with humus/moist soil	partial shade to full shade



# Some native and other alternative plants suitable for growing include:



Common Name	Botanical Name	Growth Form	Colour	Height	Soil/ Moisture Use	Sun
<b>American Red Raspberry</b>	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	shrub	white blossoms / red berries	1-1.5 m	normal/sandy/ clay, neutral/ acid,well-drained, average/moist soil	sunny
<b>Willow</b>	<i>Salix</i> spp.	shrub	n/a	1-3 m	normal/sandy/ clay, neutral/acid/ alkaline, well-drained, average/ moist soil	sunny/part shade
<b>Northern Red Currant</b>	<i>Ribes triste</i>	shrub	white blossoms / bright red berries	1-1.5 m	mineral well-drained, moist soil	sunny/part shade
<b>Saskatoon Berry</b>	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	shrub	white blossoms / purple berries	1.5-2 m	normal/sandy, neutral/acid/ alkaline, well-drained, moist soil	sunny
<b>Northern Black Currant</b>	<i>Ribes hudsonianum</i>	shrub	white blossoms / black berries	1-1.5 m	well-drained, moist soil	part shade
<b>Red Osier Dogwood</b>	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	shrub	white blossoms/ white berries	1-2 m	normal/sandy/ clay, neutral/acid, well-drained, average/ moist soil	sunny/part shade
<b>Potentilla, Shrubby Cinqufoil</b>	<i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i>	shrub	yellow/white/ pink flowers	60-90 cm	sandy, well-drained, dry/ moist soil	sunny/part shade
<b>Alaska Birch</b>	<i>Betula neoalaskana</i>	tree	n/a	14-20 m	Mineral, moist soil	sunny
<b>Lodgepole Pine</b>	<i>Pinus contorta</i>	tree	n/a	9-22 m	mineral, dry soil	sunny/part shade
<b>Trembling Aspen</b>	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	tree	n/a	14-20 m	mineral, well-drained, moist soil	sunny/part shade
<b>White Spruce</b>	<i>Picea glauca</i>	tree	n/a	20-25 m	mineral, well-drained, dry/ moist soil	shade
<b>Kinnikinnick</b>	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	perennial, ground cover, woody berry producer	white blossoms/ red berries	5-10 cm	sandy, well-drained, dry/ moist soil	sunny/part shade

## Recommended Alternatives

Coloured Yarrow ( <i>Achillea</i> cultivar).....	8
Wallflowers ( <i>Erysimum</i> spp.) .....	8
Columbines ( <i>Aquilegia</i> cultivars) .....	8
Annual Snapdragons ( <i>Antirrhinum</i> spp.) .....	10
Daylily ( <i>Heemerocallis</i> spp.) .....	10
Yellow Monkshood ( <i>Aconitum anthora</i> ) .....	10
Pot Marigold ( <i>Calendula officinalis</i> ) .....	12
Blanket Flowers ( <i>Gaillardia</i> spp.).....	12
Beach Fleabane ( <i>Senecio pseudoarnica</i> ) .....	12
Blue Flax ( <i>Linum perenne</i> ) .....	14
Gayfeather ( <i>Liatris mucronata</i> ) .....	14
Creeping Thyme ( <i>Thymus serpyllum</i> ) .....	14
Alliums ( <i>Allium</i> spp.).....	16
Alpine Aster ( <i>Aster alpinus</i> ) .....	16
Common Harebell ( <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> ).....	16
Speedwells ( <i>Veronica</i> spp.).....	18
Cranesbills ( <i>Geranium</i> spp.).....	18
Western Blue Iris ( <i>Iris missouriensis</i> ) .....	18
Maltese Cross ( <i>Lychnis chalconica</i> ) .....	20
Sunflowers ( <i>Helianthus</i> spp.).....	20
Heart-leaved Arnica ( <i>Arnica cordifolia</i> ) .....	20
Rudbeckia ( <i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.) .....	22
Gazania ( <i>Gazania</i> spp.) .....	22
Ligularia( <i>Ligularia</i> ssp. ) .....	22
Haskap ( <i>Lonicera caerulea</i> ) .....	24
Villosa Lilac ( <i>Syringa villosa</i> ) .....	24
Prickly Rose ( <i>Rosa acicularis</i> ).....	24



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