



# 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.

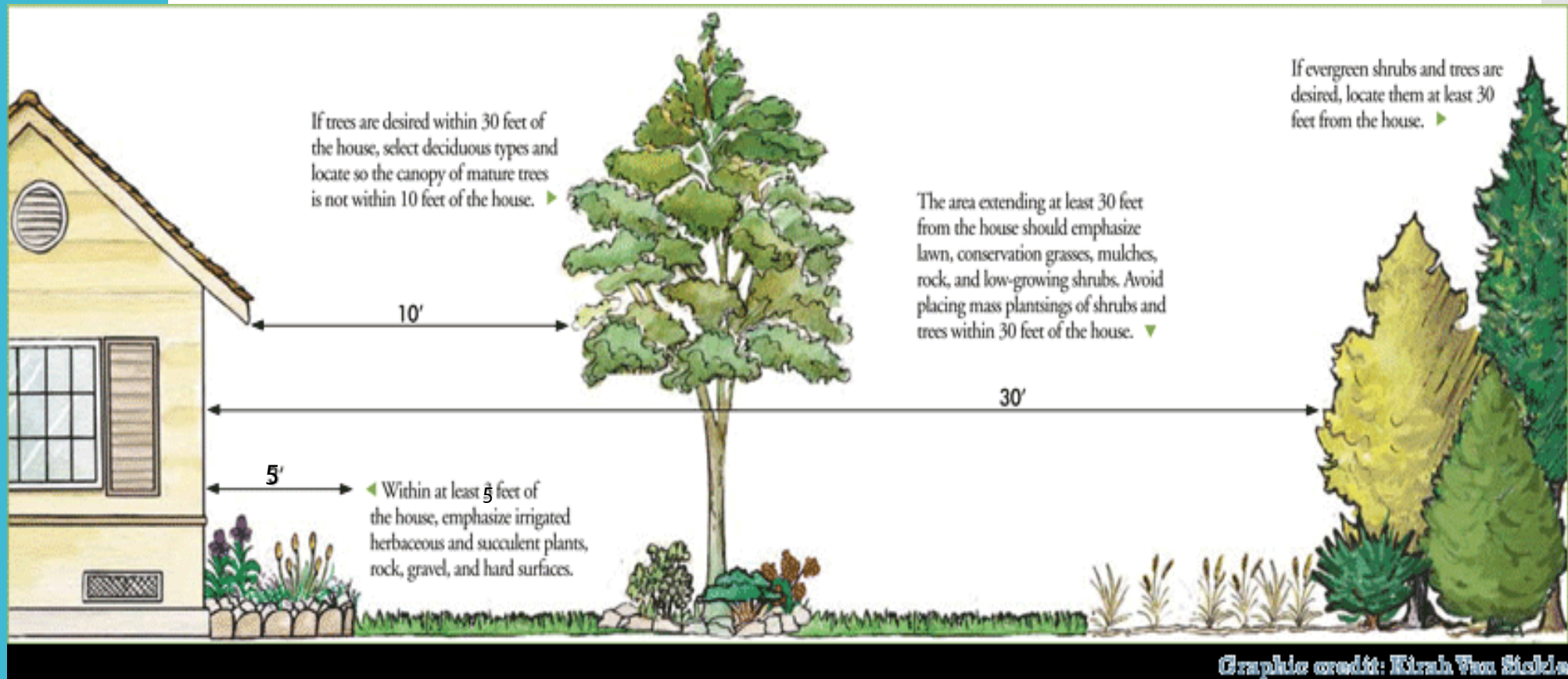


# Fire Adapted Gardening

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

*Gypsophila 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







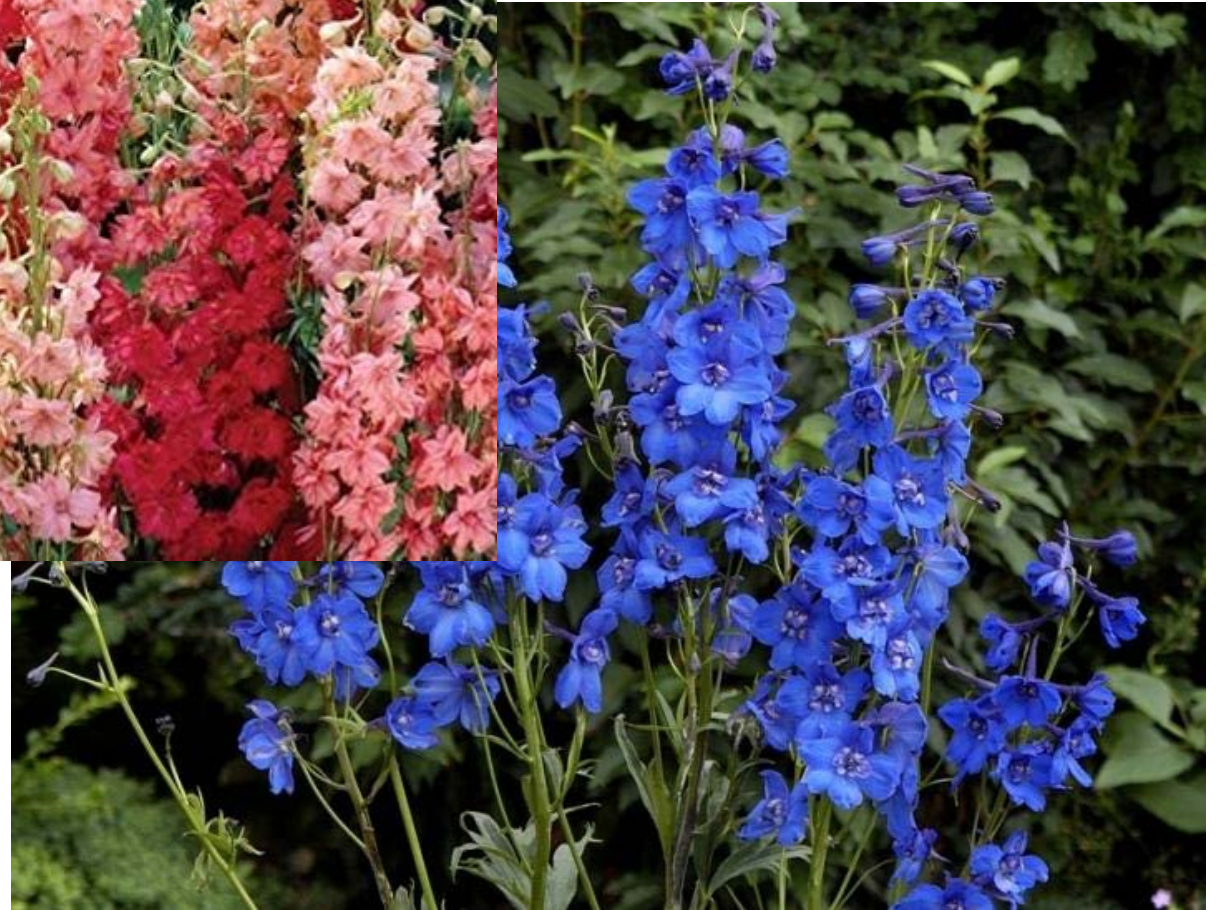
# Delphinium

*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*

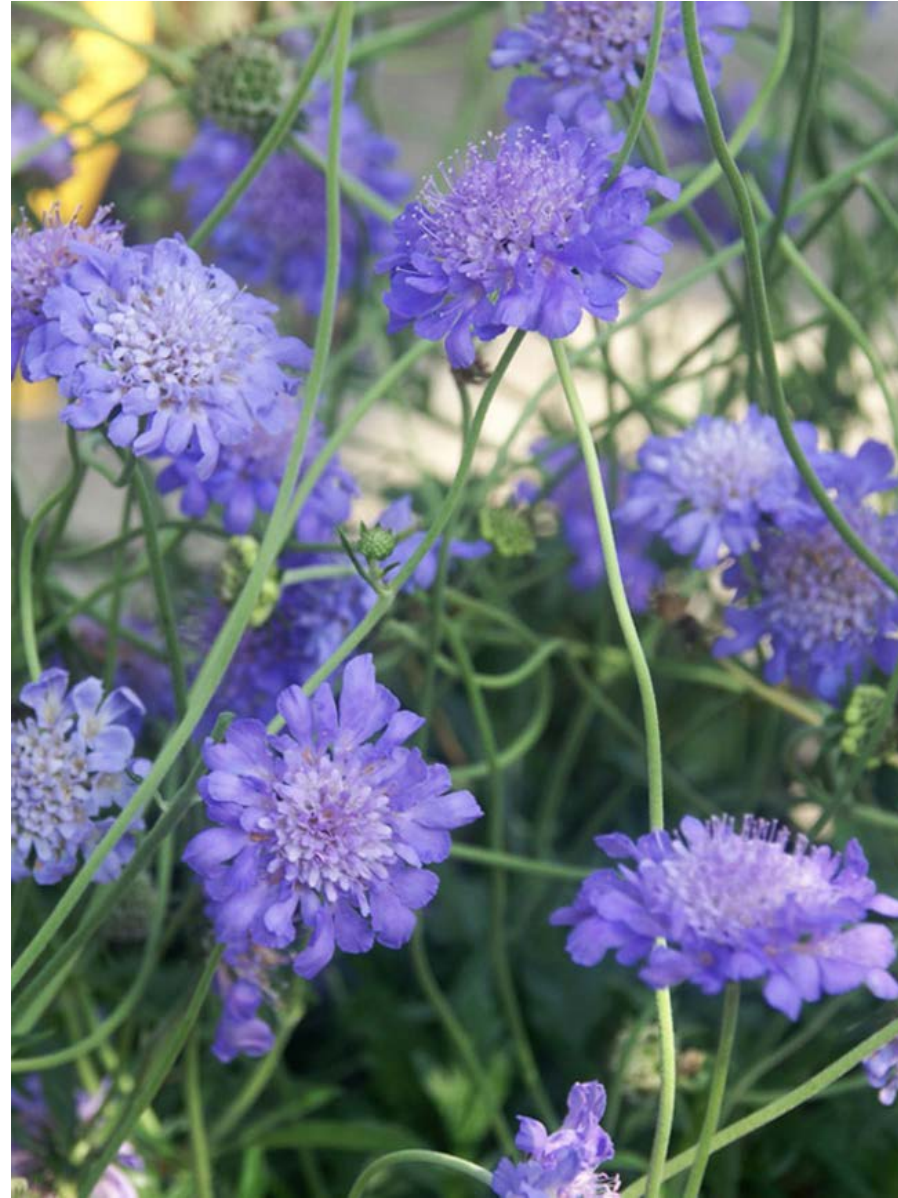
Adapted

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

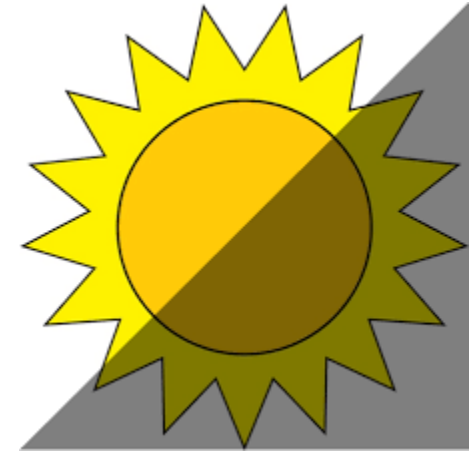
Drought tolerant

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

*Lamium 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 tremuloids*

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 icana* '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



2015 © Peter M. Dziuk



# Serviceberry

*Amalanchier 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

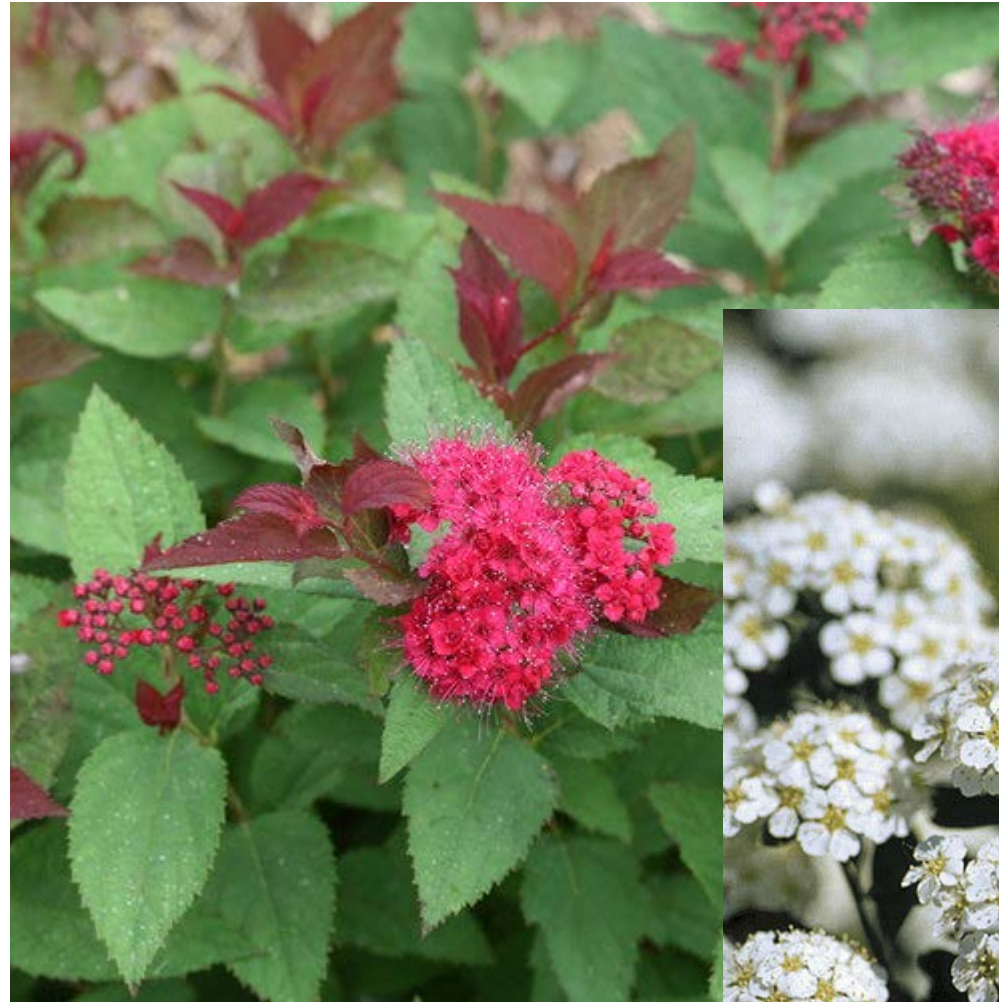
*Spiraea hybrids*

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/](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/waterconsrv/>
- 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](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

530-314-8383

[laketahoemg@ucanr.edu](mailto:laketahoemg@ucanr.edu)

[https://ucanr.edu/sites/mglaketahoe/Tahoe\\_Friendly\\_Garden\\_Program/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/mglaketahoe/Tahoe_Friendly_Garden_Program/)

