



**Butterfly Bush**

*(Buddleja davidii)*



**Lewis's Mock Orange**

*(Philadelphus lewisii)*

This ***Grow Me Instead Snapshot*** profiles 26 of BC's most unwanted horticultural plants, along with their recommended alternatives.

# Acknowledgements

The **Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC)**, formerly the Invasive Plant Council of BC, sincerely thanks the members of the **Horticulture Advisory Committee**, who voluntarily contributed hours of their time and expertise toward the development and production of this province-wide Grow Me Instead initiative for BC. Their wisdom has been vital in providing sound, available alternatives for gardeners across the province.

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The Council also acknowledges the following for their assistance and ongoing contribution to help stop the spread of invasive plants:

- » The “**Garden Smart Oregon**” booklet, produced by a coalition of organizations in Oregon.
- » The “**Garden Wise: Non-Invasive Plants for your Garden**,” two versions (East and West) produced by the Washington Invasive Species Coalition.
- » The “**Weed Wise Alberta**” guide, produced by the Alberta Invasive Plants Council.
- » The many individuals and organizations that contributed photographs.
- » A special thanks for funding from the Western Economic Development and the Community Adjustment Fund for helping make **Grow Me Instead** possible.

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J. Leekie

# Introduction

**Grow Me Instead** is a key component of the **PlantWise program**, supporting gardeners and industry in reducing the distribution of invasive plants.

This **Grow Me Instead** booklet is a tool to identify invasive plants frequently found in gardens across BC and to provide suitable alternates for a range of growing zones in this diverse province. By following the practices and using the alternates suggested in this guide, you can achieve a vibrant and dynamic garden while contributing to the most important part of invasive plant management: **prevention**.

An “invasive species” is any non-native organism that can cause economic or environmental harm and can spread quickly to new areas of BC.

Prevention is essential and helps to protect BC’s cherished natural ecosystems, our economy, and our society, including human health. Thank you for taking steps toward practising responsible gardening that can prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants!

**Grow Me Instead** informs gardening enthusiasts about horticulture’s most “unwanted” invasive plants in British Columbia, while providing a variety of native and exotic plant alternatives found to be non-invasive across the province. Whether you are adding new, attractive plants to your garden, starting a landscaping project, or removing invasive plants from your land, we hope this booklet will be a valuable resource.

By working together, we can ensure that future generations will enjoy the naturally beautiful landscape of BC, while nourishing sustainable communities, healthy ecosystems and vibrant gardens.

 = **invasive species**     = **alternative species**

## What Can You Do?

Gardeners, landscape architects, nursery professionals, and others can help prevent the establishment of invasive plants in BC by adopting the following recommended practices:

### Prevent New Introductions of Invasives

- ✓ **Select non-invasive** exotic or regional native plants for your garden.
- ✓ **Select the right plant for the right place.** Be suspicious of exotic plants promoted as “fast spreaders” or “vigorous self-seeders” as these are often invasive plants.
- ✓ **Check reliable sources** such as [www.bcinvases.ca](http://www.bcinvases.ca) and [www.greatplantpicks.org](http://www.greatplantpicks.org) or contact your local nursery or regional invasive plant committee (contact information located on ISCBC website).
- ✓ **Use wildflower seed mixes with caution,** as many often contain invasive plant seeds.
- ✓ **Trade only non-invasive plants and seeds.**
- ✓ **Encourage** local botanical gardens, nurseries, and gardening clubs to **promote, display, or sell only non-invasive plants.**

### Remove Existing Invasives

- ✓ **Replace invasive plants with non-invasive alternatives.**
- ✓ **Control invasive plants** using site- and species-appropriate methods. For example, hand pulling, digging, cutting, and mowing.
- ✓ **Deadhead** (clip off) flowers, seed pods, and berries of known invasive plants to prevent reproduction through seeds.

- ✓ **Dispose of invasive plant parts and seeds responsibly** (i.e. bag and landfill or incinerate). Most invasive plants should not be composted. Contact your regional committee or the ISCBC for additional details.

**When selecting non-invasive plants for your garden, be sure to look for those that are suitable for your location based moisture requirements, hardiness zone, avoidance of known bear attractants among other factors.**

## Report Invasive Plants

Identification and fast treatment of new invasive species is key to stopping the spread of invasive species in BC. It's critical to report new infestations immediately!

### Here is how you can report invasive species:

1. **Report-Invasives BC Phone App**
2. **Report-A-Weed BC Phone App**
3. **Report-A-Weed tool in the online IAPP Map Display application**
4. **Online Report Form**

Visit [www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/invasive-species/index.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/invasive-species/index.htm) to access these reporting tools.

### Other ways you can report include:

5. **Phone 1-888-933-3722**
6. **Contact your Regional Invasive Species Organization:** [www.bcinvasives.ca/about/partners](http://www.bcinvasives.ca/about/partners)

These recommended practices are adopted from the Center for Plant Conservation, and also referenced from Washington's Garden Wise: Non-Invasive Plants for Your Garden, available at: [www.nwcb.wa.gov/nwcb\\_publications.htm](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/nwcb_publications.htm).

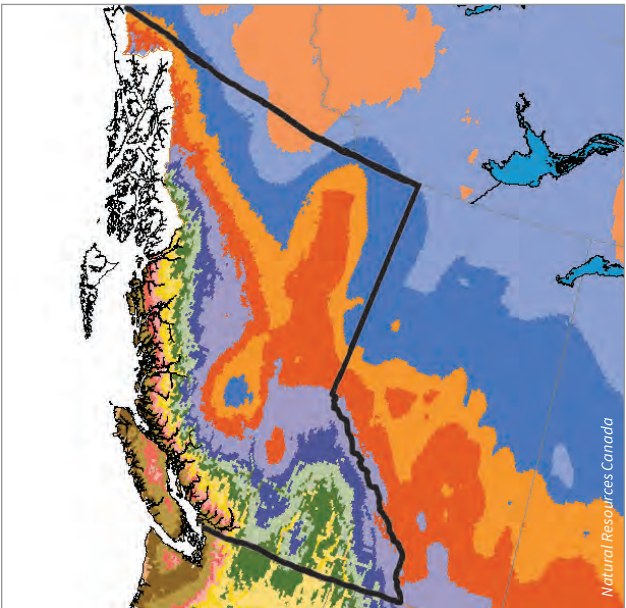


## Using This Guide

BC is a large and diverse province; this guide aims to provide information for gardeners in different growing zones and conditions. When using this guide, look at the unwanted plant on the left upper side and then consider the recommended alternates provided. Invasive plant distribution maps were created using IAPP data as of August 2013. Moisture requirements and hardiness zones are listed with each alternate plant. Additional recommendations (no photos or descriptions) are also listed.

There are currently two systems used for classifying hardiness, the **Canadian Hardiness Zone ([www.planthardiness.gc.ca](http://www.planthardiness.gc.ca))** and **The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Hardiness Zone System**.

This booklet references the USDA system due to its current extensive use by gardening enthusiasts, commercial horticulture, and professionals in the industry.







This system is comprised of zones based on the annual minimum temperature; zone 1 is coldest, zone 10 is warmest and each zone is further divided into “a” (colder) or “b” (warmer). These zones are used to indicate the minimum annual temperature a plant is capable of tolerating. For example, a zone 4 plant can survive winters that reach -34°C or warmer. This plant would be suitable in an area that is zone 4 or greater, but would probably not survive in zone 3. Choose alternatives that are suitable to your zone or colder.

The USDA hardiness system does not consider sun, moisture, nutrients, or soils; ask local experts such as garden centers or clubs regarding the best alternate for your area. Please note that seed selections for higher elevations or from northern latitudes are typically hardier to withstand cooler conditions.

## Moisture Requirements

Moisture requirements are included for each alternative. The following symbols have been used to indicate moisture requirements:

Please consult your local nursery or garden centre to get the information on which plants are best for your area.

	<b>drought tolerant</b>
	<b>dry-fresh (moderately dry)</b>
	<b>fresh-moist (moist but drained)</b>
	<b>moist-wet (wet)</b>



## Be PlantWise

The **Invasive Species Council of BC** is working collaboratively with the British Columbia Landscape and Nursery Association (BCLNA) and leaders in the horticulture industry to promote responsible gardening by reducing the sale and purchase of invasive plants through the PlantWise program.

The **PlantWise program** is an industry certification and awareness program that works with plant growers, retailers, specifiers, and landscapers across BC. PlantWise combines voluntary industry initiatives with gardener purchasing tools and education in an effort to reduce the use of invasive plants, and increase gardener demand for non-invasive alternative species.

Look for participating PlantWise businesses and show your support!

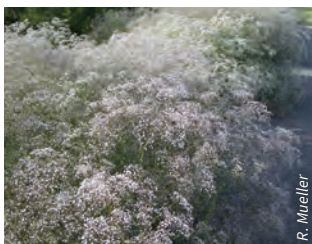


PLANTWISE



## BABY'S BREATH

(*Gypsophila paniculata*)



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Baby's breath is a herbaceous perennial plant with delicate white or occasionally pink blooms on bushy flower stalks. Plants flourish in well-drained sandy or gravelly soils. Flower stalks are sought after by florists for dried and fresh flower arrangements, but seeds often continue to develop in arrangements and are easily spread. The flowering stems of a single plant can produce more than 10,000 seeds and these are distributed over long distances when the whole stalk breaks off at ground-level and rolls like a tumbleweed. Infestations quickly spread along roadsides and invade grasslands, reducing forage quality for livestock and wildlife.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Pearly Everlasting

(*Anaphalis margaritacea*)

**ZONE 3B • BC NATIVE** • A 20 to 90 cm tall multi-stemmed herbaceous perennial with linear green leaves that are white-woolly beneath. The “everlasting” flowers are used in both fresh and dried flower arrangements. In the garden, pearly everlasting self-seeds and attracts butterflies and other insects.



**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z3) **Hybrid Yarrow** (*Achillea millefolium hybrids*) featured p. 17; (z3) **Fernleaf Yarrow** (*Achillea filipendula*); and (z4) **German Statice** (*Goniolimon tataricum*).



## Filigran Russian Sage

(*Perovskia atriplicifolia*)

**ZONE 4** • Filigran Russian sage is a drought-tolerant perennial that gives off a sage-like aroma; it is somewhat deer and rabbit resistant. The purple to violet flowers are borne on 60 to 90 cm silvery branches. Filigran Russian sage does not produce viable seed. Some varieties are aggressive and may escape the garden.



## Hewitt's Double Meadow Rue

(*Thalictrum delavayi* 'Hewitt's Double')

**ZONE 4** • A tall, herbaceous perennial that produces lush tiers of columbine-like leaves on upright stems. In late spring this meadow rue produces cloud-like sprays of long-lasting lavender pink flowers. 'Hewitt's Double' spreads slowly in moist soil in semi-shade, grows to about 1.5 m tall and does not seed.



## Sea Lavender

(*Limonium latifolium*)

**ZONE 4** • A herbaceous perennial with clouds of tiny star-like, pale blue flowers on 75 cm arching stems in mid to late summer. Can be used in either fresh or dry arrangements. Sea lavender needs good drainage and sunshine, but is tolerant of a range of soil types, and grows well on hot, dry sites.



## White Flax

(*Linum perenne* 'Diamond')

**ZONE 3** • A compact, white-flowered selection of the common blue perennial flax. The flowers are white with yellow centres, produced on 40 to 60 cm stems in late summer. Best in neutral to alkaline, well-drained soil, and tolerant of hot, dry sites. Short-lived in the north, and usually treated as an annual.





## BACHELOR'S BUTTONS

(*Centaurea cyanus*)



R. Wallace



R. Old

**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Known as “cornflower” in southern Europe where this annual species is native and a common weed in grain (“corn”) fields. Bachelor’s buttons has striking sky-blue (sometimes purple, pink or white) pom-pom flowers atop 30 to 90 cm tall, grey-green stems loosely clothed with slender leaves of the same colour. Bachelor’s buttons are frequently found as a significant component of “wildflower” seed mixes—avoid these. Seedlings grow quickly, produce copious seed and readily invade dry meadows, fields and grasslands.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Purple Coneflower

(*Echinacea purpurea*)

**ZONE 3** • A distinctive herbaceous perennial, native to the tall grass prairie of the US Midwest. The 8 cm diameter flower heads, which are borne at the tops of metre-tall leafy stems, have wide, pink to purple, attractively drooping rays. Well-drained, fertile soil in the sun. Attractive to butterflies and bees.



D. Cappaert

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z2) **Common Harebell** (*Campanula rotundifolia*) BC native featured p. 26; (z3) **Bluehead Gilia** (*Gilia capitata*) BC native featured p. 38; and (z3) **Painted Daisy** (*Tanacetum coccineum*).

## Blue Flax

(*Linum lewisii*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • Herbaceous perennial with light sky blue flowers, the petals marked with fine lines, produced on 40 to 60 cm stems in late summer. Best in neutral to alkaline, well-drained soil, and tolerant of hot, dry sites. Short-lived in the north, usually treated as an annual. Similar to the European *L. perenne*.



## Nodding Onion

(*Allium cernuum*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • Noted for its nodding clusters of lilac flowers, small, edible bulbs and 30 cm tall edible foliage that has a chive to garlic flavour. An easy perennial that self-seeds, tolerates some shade and drought, and is hardy throughout much of BC in well-drained soils and rocky areas.



## Showy Daisy

(*Erigeron speciosus*)

**ZONE 2 • BC NATIVE** • A prolific bloomer, producing yellow-centred disk-like flowers with narrow horizontal rays that range in colour from blue to pink, in summer. The upright, widely branched stems are from 15 to 80 cm tall, with scattered, long, narrow leaves. Plants tolerate some shade and drought.



## Cupid's Dart

(*Catananche caerulea*)

**ZONE 4** • A self-seeding, short-lived perennial that produces striking blue to purple, jagged-edged flowers atop long, lax stems. Cupid's dart is an excellent cut flower and stands out beautifully in gardens. Plants can reach 70 cm tall and need a sunny position with summer moisture and well-drained soil.





## BLUEWEED

(*Echium vulgare*)



B. Stewart



B. Stewart

**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Blueweed is a biennial native to central and western Asia and Europe (where it is known as “viper’s bugloss”), with attractive, bright purple-blue flowers borne along 30 cm to metre-tall stiffly upright stems. In British Columbia, as in much of the rest of the world, blueweed is a serious invasive that favours dry, disturbed habitats such as roadsides, gravelly riparian areas, and rocky pastures. Blueweed often contaminates agricultural crop seeds such as clover, but blueweed plants are unpalatable to most livestock. The species is of major concern in many parts of the southern and central Interior of BC.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Large-leaved Lupine

(*Lupinus polyphyllus*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE •** A short-lived perennial with digitate leaves and flowering stems up to a metre tall. Flowers are rich blue to violet-purple or white. Excellent plants for infertile soils, as they enrich the soil as they grow. Raw, unprocessed seeds are **toxic** to humans and livestock.

**DO NOT CONSUME.**



M. Harte

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z2) **Showy Daisy** (*Erigeron speciosus*) BC native featured p. 10; (z2) **Arctic Lupine** (*Lupinus arcticus*) BC native; (z4) **Heartleaf Brunnera** (*Brunnera macrophylla*); and (z3) **Common Harebell** (*Campanula rotundifolia*) BC native featured p. 26.

## Blue Hyssop

(*Agastache foeniculum*)

**ZONES 3-6** • BC native. Deep blue to pale lavender flowers on compact spikes atop metre-tall stems attract hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. The strong licorice aroma discourages grazing animals. Tolerant of some drought and shade. Northern seed selections are hardier than those from the south.



## Woodland Sage

(*Salvia nemorosa*)

**ZONE 3** • Early-summer-blooming European perennial sage to 80 cm with herbivore-resistant foliage and spikes of blue, purple, pink or white flowers that attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Plants spread slowly and are drought resistant. Removal of spent blooms extends the flowering season.



## Penstemon

(*Penstemon hybrids*)

**ZONE 3** • Tubular flowers are brightly coloured and adapted to pollination by bumblebees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Long-blooming hybrids have flowers in a wide range of colours on 50 to 60 cm tall leafy stalks. Most hybrid penstemons are short-lived perennials that require sun and well-drained soil.



## Larkspur

(*Delphinium glaucum*)

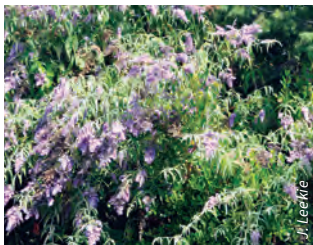
**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • Summer blooming perennials with brilliant purple-blue flowers that attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Excellent cut flower. To 2 m tall when grown in humus-rich, moisture-retentive soil in the sun. **Toxic** to humans and known to cause livestock poisoning. **DO NOT CONSUME.**





## BUTTERFLY BUSH

(*Buddleja davidii*)



J. Leekie



J. Leekie

**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Butterfly bush is a deciduous to semi-evergreen shrub that grows 4 to 5 m tall. Until only recently, this species was celebrated for its robust growth, fragrance and range of bloom colours, and often recommended for its ability to grow in poor soil and to attract butterflies. Unfortunately, butterfly bush has escaped cultivation in southern BC and is now considered an invasive species. Spreading rapidly by windborne seed, butterfly bush displaces native vegetation in disturbed, open areas and along coastal forest edges, roadsides, and especially on sunny stream sides and riverbanks.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Lewis's Mock Orange

(*Philadelphus lewisii*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • A twiggly, deciduous shrub noted for its neat, elliptic leaves, peeling brown bark and especially, its profuse, orange-blossom-scented, 2 to 4 cm wide flowers. These are borne in spring, prior to leaf emergence. Grows to 3 m or more on almost any sunny or partly shaded, well-drained site.



J. Gaither

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z5) **Blue Elderberry** (*Sambucus cerulea*) BC native featured p. 29; (z4/5) **Weigela Varieties** (*Weigela florida*); (z5) **Rose of Sharon** (*Hybiscus syriacus*); and (z6) **Oceanspray** (*Holodiscus discolor*) BC native.



## Red-flowering Currant

(*Ribes sanguineum*)

**ZONE 5 • BC NATIVE** • An upright deciduous shrub to 2 m or more, popular for its brilliant display of pink to carmine red (or white) flowers in early spring, attractive to hummingbirds and bees. It thrives in rocky, well-drained soil in sunny locations, less so in heavy soils and shade.



## Black Chokeberry

(*Aronia melanocarpa*)

**ZONE 3** • A deciduous shrub native to eastern North America, with flexible upright stems to 2 m tall. Bunches of glossy black, edible berries develop on reddish stalks, often so abundantly that they weigh down the main stems. Fall colour is usually bright orange-red. Adaptable, growing in dry or wet soils.



## Meyer Lilac

(*Syringa meyeri*)

**ZONE 3** • A dense, rounded shrub from northeastern Asia, noted for its strongly scented lavender-pink flowers in May, its compact, neat habit (to about 2 m tall by 3 m wide) and freedom from disease. Full sun or part shade in moist, well-drained soil. The cultivar 'Palibin' is smaller, with light pink flowers.



## California Lilac

(*Ceanothus spp. and hybrids*)

**ZONE 8** • Shrubs for dry, sunny hillsides near the South Coast. Cultivated species and hybrids have shiny green leaves and white, blue, pale purple or pink flowers, usually in May or June. Fast growing plants, remarkably drought tolerant once established, growing to 2 or 3 m high and across.





## COMMON PERIWINKLE

(*Vinca minor*)



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Gardeners value this evergreen plant for its small, violet blue or white flowers and for its shade tolerance. However, periwinkle forms dense mats that suppress many plants, and invades moist areas in forested areas and along watercourses. Common periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) is highly competitive due to its rapid growth and adaptability to many growing conditions. A similar species, greater periwinkle (*Vinca major*) is less problematic, as it is less broadly adapted. Common periwinkle is found primarily in the Lower Mainland of BC.



IAPP, August 2018

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Bunchberry

(*Cornus canadensis*, *C. suecica*, *C. unalaschkensis*)

**ZONE 2** • Deciduous groundcovers for the moist woodland, spreading by underground stems. Easily recognized by the distinctive dogwood “flowers,” composed of a cluster of tiny flowers surrounded by 4-pointed white bracts. Whorls of ribbed, dark green leaves on low stems, with red berries in summer.



D. Powell

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z6) **Queen’s Cup** (*Clintonia uniflora*) BC native; (z7) **Piggy-back Plant** (*Tolmiea menziesii*) BC native; (z7) **Redwood Sorrel** (*Oxalis oregano*); and (z5) **Lowfast Cotoneaster** (*Cotoneaster dammeri* ‘Lowfast’).



## Woodland Strawberry

(*Fragaria vesca*)

**ZONE 3** • A hardy ground covering species for well-drained soils, spreading by above-ground stems. Exceptionally tasty strawberries, about 1 cm wide, are produced in summer. Commercial forms, often called “alpine strawberries” or “fraises de bois,” are larger and produced over a longer period.



## False Lily-of-the-valley

(*Maianthemum dilatatum*)

**ZONE 4 • BC NATIVE** • A deciduous groundcover with glossy, heart-shaped leaves with impressed veins, spreading by underground stems. The tiny, white star-shaped flowers are borne on short upright stalks in late spring, followed by small mottled (poisonous) berries. Best under moist woodland conditions.



## Small-flowered Alumroot

(*Heuchera micrantha*)

**ZONE 4 • BC NATIVE** • Evergreen, clumping perennial that thrives in moist, rocky, well-drained soil. The lobed, maple-shaped leaves are broader in shade and attractively marked in the sun. In late spring, clouds of tiny white flowers are borne on multiple 60 cm upright stems.



## Kinnickinnick

(*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

**ZONES 2-6 • BC NATIVE** • Mat-forming evergreen dwarf shrub with white to pink urn-shaped flowers. Coastal selections (e.g. ‘Vancouver Jade’) are moisture tolerant; northern selections are cold-hardier. Shade tolerant, but best in sun in well-drained soil. Plump red berries where multiple seedlings are grown.





## COMMON TANSY

(*Tanacetum vulgare*)



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Common tansy produces dense clusters of golden yellow flowers in button-like heads held above dark green fern-like leaves. Originally introduced from Europe as an ornamental and a medicinal herb; it has insecticidal properties, among other things. Plants are known to produce thousands of wind-blown seeds, but it also spreads easily by rhizomes and root fragments. Tansy flourishes in full sun in moist, rich soil, such as on stream banks, or in ditches or moist pastures.

**Toxic** to livestock, as well as humans, if consumed in large quantities.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Yarrow

(*Achillea millefolium*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • A herbaceous perennial to 75 cm, with broad, flattened heads of flowers and ferny leaves. The common yarrow is native, but European ecotypes are common for sale and in the landscape. Pastel-coloured cultivars are mostly hybrids and equally hardy. Dry sites in the sun.



**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z2) **Canada Goldenrod** (*Solidago canadensis*) BC native; (z5) **Leopard Plant** (*Ligularia stenocephala*); (z3) **Mexican Hat** (*Ratibida columnifera*) BC native; and (z3) **Red Columbine** (*Aquilegia formosa*) BC native featured p. 32.

## Tall Coneflower

(*Rudbeckia laciniata*)

**ZONE 3** • Statuesque summer flowering herbaceous perennials to 3 m tall, with handsome, cut leaves. Plants spread vigorously in any summer-moist soil. The young leaves are edible and excellent raw in salads. A pompom-flowered cultivar, ‘Goldquelle’ (‘Golden Drops’), is shorter and less vigorous.



## Summer Sunflower

(*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

**ZONE 3** • A bushy herbaceous perennial noted for its abundant long-blooming 7 cm daisies and angular leaves. Flowers on the common double-flowered cultivar ‘Sommersonne’ (‘Summer Sun’) are even longer lasting. Grows to 1.5 m or more in full sun, in moist, well-drained soil, but tolerant of some drought.



## Morden Eldorado Garden Mum

(*Chrysanthemum x morifolium*  
‘Morden Eldorado’)

**ZONE 5** • A beautiful cold-hardy chrysanthemum growing to 40 cm with double yellow flowers. Flowering in late summer and fall, this cultivar was bred at the Agricultural Research Station in Morden, Manitoba. Plants may be short-lived without winter snow cover. Requires full sun and moist soil for best results.



## Flat-top Goldentop

(*Euthamia (Solidago) graminifolia*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • This tough, drought-tolerant herbaceous perennial produces its flat-topped clusters of fragrant yellow flowers from July to October. The ample, grass-like leaves are borne on metre-tall wiry stems arising from spreading rhizomes. Any soil with summer moisture in full sun.





## DAPHNE

(*Daphne laureola*)



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

This evergreen shrub is sold by retailers in some locations in BC, where it is planted as an alternative to dwarf rhododendron. Growing 0.75 to 1.5 m tall, this deep-rooting invasive has a clustered leaf arrangement and small yellow-green flowers. Unfortunately, birds feed on the shiny black berries of spurge laurel, distributing the seeds around woodlands in southwest BC, where it forms dense thickets and displaces native species. The sap is known to cause dermatitis in some people and the leaves, bark, and berries are **poisonous**.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Oregon Grape

(*Berberis (Mahonia) nervosa*)

**ZONE 6 • BC NATIVE •** Oregon grape is noted for its sweetly scented, brilliant yellow early spring-borne flowers and blue-bloomed berries. It is a common, shade-tolerant understory shrub in southern BC. The berries are taken by birds and animals, but are generally unpalatable to humans before processing.



**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z6) **Japanese Evergreen Azalea** (*Rhododendron kiusianum* hybrids); (z7) **Christmas Box** (*Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *humilis*); and (z5) **Tall Mahonia** (*Berberis (Mahonia) aquifolium*) BC native featured p. 22.

## Evergreen Huckleberry

(*Vaccinium ovatum*)

**ZONE 8 • BC NATIVE** • A bushy shrub that grows 2 m or more tall and wide. The white to pink urn-shaped flowers are followed by clusters of small but tasty, blue-bloomed, black berries. A broadleaved evergreen requiring protection from cold winds. ‘Thunderbird’ is a highly productive clonal selection.



## Skimmia Cultivars

(*Skimmia spp.*)

**ZONE 7** • Skimmias are broadleaved evergreens grown for their terminal clusters of orange-blossom-scented flowers in early spring, and on female plants, bright red berries in autumn and winter. A male plant is generally required for berries, except with the self-fertile *S. reevesiana*. Woodland conditions.



## Pacific Rhododendron

(*Rhododendron macrophyllum*)

**ZONE 6 • BC NATIVE** • Growing to 2 m or more, this rhododendron is adapted to south coastal conditions, performing best in humusy, well-drained soil with some shade and protection from cold winds in winter. The pink bell-shaped flowers are produced in terminal clusters above handsome evergreen leaves.



## Winter Daphne

(*Daphne odora*)

**ZONE 7** • A low, winter-blooming evergreen shrub with flexible stems and rubbery, lance-shaped leaves. The exquisitely fragrant, cream and purple flowers are usually open during milder spells in mid and late winter. Requires a sheltered position with summer moisture. Daphne berries are **poisonous**.





## ENGLISH HOLLY

(*Ilex aquifolium*)



J. Hallworth



D. Polster

**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

English holly is grown for its bright red berries and spiny, dark green evergreen foliage. A large shrub or small tree, English holly has become a serious invasive because of its adaptability and the ease with which its seeds are spread by birds. Seedlings are now commonly found in mixed deciduous and coniferous forests around the south coast, along the edges of wetlands and especially near residential areas. English holly grows rapidly 7 to 10m tall, casting deep shade that deprives native plants of light, and holly roots effectively outcompete many natives for nutrients and water. The berries are **toxic** to people if ingested.



IAPP, August 2018

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Holly-leaved Osmanthus

(*Osmanthus heterophyllus*)

**ZONE 6** • Evergreen, holly-like leaves and sweetly fragrant flowers in late winter make this large shrub or small tree immediately recognizable. Variegated cultivars (e.g., ‘Goshiki’) are more compact. Grows 5 or 6 m tall in moisture-retentive, well-drained soil in semi-shade. Effective as a specimen or hedge.



Wakanmuri

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z7) **Strawberry Tree** (*Arbutus unedo*); (z5) **Pacific Crabapple** (*Malus fusca*) BC native featured p. 46; (z6) **Oregon Grape** (*Berberis (Mahonia) nervosa*) BC native featured p. 19; and (z6) **Burkwood Osmanthus** (*Osmanthus burkwoodii*).



## Red Elderberry

(*Sambucus racemosa* subsp. *pubens*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • This big deciduous shrub produces pyramidal clusters of white flowers in early spring, and later, brilliant red berries that are important early berries for many kinds of birds. Variety *aborescens* is tall (to 6 m) and strictly coastal, while var. *leucocarpa* is distributed east across North America.



## Meserve Hollies

(*Ilex x meservae*)

**ZONE 5** • Cold-hardy evergreen hollies with shiny, blue-green foliage. Generally compact and shrubby, growing to 2 m or taller, but usually sheared for hedging. Female and fruitless male cultivars (e.g., Blue Princess, Blue Prince, etc.) are available. Moist, well-drained soil, protected from cold winds.



## Tall Mahonia

(*Berberis (Mahonia) aquifolium*)

**ZONE 5 • BC NATIVE** • An evergreen shrub with multiple, unbranched upright shoots to 2 m or more and softly spine-edged compound leaves. The bright yellow flowers are borne in early spring and are followed by blue-bloomed berries that are edible after processing. Well drained soil in sun or part shade.



## San Jose Holly

(*Ilex x aquipernyi*)

**ZONE 6** • A dense upright holly to 7 or 8 m tall with glossy, small, dark green, spiny leaves. 'San Jose' is somewhat self-fruitful, but bears more reliably with a male pollinator nearby. The red berries ripen in autumn and like other hybrid hollies, seeds are sterile. Can be used as a specimen, screen or hedge.





## ENGLISH IVY

(*Hedera helix*)



J. Leekie



J. Leekie

**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Commonly planted to provide quick cover for walls and buildings, and as ground cover in commercial landscapes, English ivy is now recognized as a serious, smothering invasive in much of southwestern BC. Plants remain vegetative when their growth is horizontal, but quickly become reproductively mature if allowed to climb. Mature plants flower and produce copious seeds that are greedily eaten by birds and distributed widely, including in woodlands. Thick evergreen ivy mats overwhelm plants on the forest floor, prevent natural seedling succession, debilitate trees, and can damage infrastructure. All *Hedera* species are probably potentially invasive.



IAPP, August 2018

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Salal

(*Gaultheria shallon*)

**ZONE 6 • BC NATIVE** • A creeping evergreen shrub of coastal forests with broad, leathery leaves, white urn-shaped flowers in spring and edible, black berries in summer. Plants can grow to 3 m in shade, but are usually more compact and can be kept low by pruning. Well-drained, moist soils in sun or shade.



A. Jarrett

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z4) **Boston Ivy** (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*); (z5) **Barrenwort** (*Epimedium spp.*) featured p. 58; (z5) **Western Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera ciliosa*) BC native; and (z7) **Piggy-back Plant** (*Tolmiea menziesii*) BC native.



## Deer Fern

(*Blechnum spicant*)

**ZONE 5 • BC NATIVE** • Deer fern is a tufted evergreen that grows to about 75 cm across. It is native across the Northern hemisphere in mild, moist to wet forests. Spore-bearing fronds are thin, upright and herbaceous, while the sterile fronds are evergreen and more horizontal. For shade, but sun-tolerant in moist soil.



## Purple Wintercreeper Euonymus

(*Euonymus fortunei* 'Coloratus')

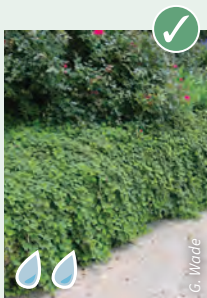
**ZONE 4** • 'Coloratus' is a bright green leaved selection of the common wintercreeper that colours purple in the winter. It is more prostrate and shade-tolerant than other cultivars and forms thick weed-suppressing mats, rooting along the ground. Tolerant of most conditions except waterlogged soil.



## Taiwan Creeping Raspberry

(*Rubus pentalobus*)

**ZONE 7** • This dense, low-growing vine boasts finely corrugated evergreen leaves about 4 cm wide and tasty, orange salmonberry-like fruits in midsummer. It makes an attractive, weed-suppressing groundcover that is easily contained. Tolerates shade and when established, some drought.



## Privet Honeysuckle

(*Lonicera pileata*)

**ZONE 5** • A dense, evergreen shrub, 2 m tall by 3 m wide, with opposite pairs of small leaves on horizontal branches. Small, creamy white flowers in spring are followed by translucent amethyst-purple fruits on the undersides of the stems. Best in semi-shade in humus-rich, well-drained soil. Salt-tolerant.





## FIELD SCABIOUS

(*Knautia arvensis*)



NWIPC



NWIPC

**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

The dense, clover-like heads of pink to purple flowers are attractive to butterflies, and field scabious is often marketed to gardeners as a “butterfly plant.” The species easily escapes cultivation, however, and has become a serious invasive in drier parts of the province. A single plant can produce thousands of seeds, each of which readily germinates in pastures or meadows or along roadsides. Field scabious effectively competes with forage stands and native pastures and is capable of invading undisturbed plant communities. Once established, field scabious is difficult to eradicate.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Columbines

(*Aquilegia cultivars*)

**ZONE 3** • Columbines are easy plants in the garden, prospering in part shade in moist well-drained soil. Many are hardy, with flowers in a range of colours above lush tiers of leaves. Double-flowered cultivars, such as *A. vulgaris* ‘Nora Barlow’ (green and pink pompoms on long stems), are excellent for cutting.



D. Powell

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z3) **Nodding Onion** (*Allium cernuum*) BC native featured p. 10; (z4) **Avens** (*Geum*) (*Geum quellyon*); (z3) **Bluehead Gilia** (*Gilia capitata*) BC native featured p. 38; and (z2) **Showy Daisy** (*Erigeron speciosus*) BC native featured p. 10.

## Common Harebell

(*Campanula rotundifolia*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE •** A diminutive herbaceous perennial with pretty, lavender-blue bells on wiry stems above low, dark green, grassy foliage. Flowering in summer on moist, well-drained, even rocky soils, in sun or part shade. Commercial cultivars are mostly European ecotypes with larger flowers.



## Masterwort

(*Astrantia major*)

**ZONE 3 •** A clumping, self-seeding herbaceous perennial, 60 to 90 cm tall, for moist soil in sun or part shade. Luxuriant leaves set off long-lasting umbels of starry flowers, excellent cut fresh or dried. Numerous cultivars are available with flowers ranging from greenish white to deep rosy red.



## Hybrid Yarrow

(*Achillea millefolium hybrids*)

**ZONE 3 •** Like the common yarrow, *A. millefolium* hybrids are low plants with ferny foliage and flat-topped clusters of tiny flowers. Cultivars are available in a wide range of pastel colours, and are excellent as fresh or dried cut flowers. Ideal for exposed sites, yarrows tend to spread, even in poor, droughty soils.



## Bee Balm

(*Monarda didyma*)

**ZONE 3-5 •** A fast growing, spreading herbaceous perennial for moist soil in full sun. Bee balms are aromatic mint-relatives with lavender, pink or red flower clusters that crown upright leafy stems 1.5 to 2 m tall. The flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies and are borne from late summer to autumn.





## FLOWERING RUSH

(*Butomus umbellatus*)



L. Mehrhoff



L. Mehrhoff

**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Flowering rush is sometimes used in landscaping where its almond-scented, delicate pink flowers add colour to the margins of ponds and water gardens. It is widely cultivated across North America, but has escaped into native wetlands. It is regarded as one of five invasive alien plants having a major ecological impact on natural ecosystems in Canada and considered a high priority species for eradication in parts of Ontario. Flowering rush is primarily spread via rhizome pieces drifting in waterways; long-distance dispersal is caused by debris carried along by boats. Currently, it is known from a single site in southwest BC.

**Flowering Rush has been reported in a single location, but is not otherwise known to occur in BC. This is an ALERT species. Report all sightings immediately.**

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Western Blue Iris

(*Iris missouriensis*)

**ZONE 3** • Perennial herb to about 50 cm tall, spreading from thick rhizomes. The flowers are light to deep blue with purple lines. Grows in marshy meadows and around moist lake margins in southeast Alberta and south to New Mexico; occurs sporadically in BC but probably introduced. Also known as Rocky Mountain iris.



M. Charters

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z3) **Northern Iris** (*Iris setosa*) BC native; and (z3) **Water Plantain** (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) BC native.

## Sedges

(*Carex* spp.)

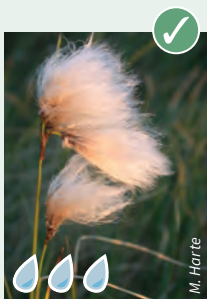
There are some 180 different sedge species native to BC. Nearly all are adapted to wet soils or seasonal flooding. The majority are tufted, grass-like perennials with linear leaves that are ribbed or channeled. The mostly insignificant flowers and clustered dry fruits are borne on arching wiry stalks.



## Narrow-leaved Cotton Grass

(*Eriophorum angustifolium*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** A colony-forming, grass-like sedge relative that grows 10 to 90 cm tall from creeping rhizomes. Cotton grass is named for its handsome, persistent cottony seed heads, present in the summer and fall. Plants are adapted to nutrient poor soils in boggy areas and at wetland margins.



## Small-flowered Bulrush

(*Scirpus* spp.)

**ZONE 4 • BC NATIVE** • A number of similar native bulrushes are excellent subjects for pond and wetland margins. They have stiff, upright stems with narrow, strap-like leaves and flower clusters with radiating branches. The tiny flowers are followed by persistent, dark, dry fruits.



## Arrowhead

(*Sagittaria latifolia*)

**ZONE 5 • BC NATIVE** • This semi-aquatic plant inhabits wet ditches, ponds, lakeshores and marshes in the southern half of BC. It has arrowhead-shaped leaves and produces elegant stalks of flowers with three petals and a brilliant yellow-green centre. The leaves may stand upright or float on the water surface.





## GIANT HOGWEED

(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Until recently, gardeners and designers were attracted to the bold, tropical-looking leaves, huge, white umbels of flowers and the sturdy, architectural look of giant hogweed. However, the species has proven to be highly invasive and has escaped cultivation in southern BC. Contact with any above-ground part of the plant and especially the **toxic** sap can cause **burns, blisters and scarring** of the skin. Infestations

increase the risk of erosion, as the leaves over-shade and kill native vegetation, leaving the soil unprotected after winter dieback. Giant hogweed grows to 5m or more and produces seed that is distributed by both wind and water and can survive for many years in the soil.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Blue Elderberry

(*Sambucus cerulea*)

**ZONE 5 • BC NATIVE •** A large shrub or picturesque multi-stemmed small tree, 5 to 10m tall, native to meadows and open forest areas of southern BC. The flat-topped clusters of white flowers, borne at the ends of the branches, are followed by small, waxy blue berries. Best in well-drained, moist soil in the sun.





## Ligularia

(*Ligularia dentata*)

**ZONE 4** • This moisture-loving perennial produces large, rounded leaves with toothed edges, and upright, branched stems bearing large orange daisies in summer. Named selections with green, bronze or purple leaves are available. Slug prone, but otherwise, trouble-free. Sun tolerant in cool summer areas.



## Rodgersia

(*Rodgersia* spp.)

**ZONE 5** • Rodgersia are large herbaceous perennials noted for bold shade-tolerant foliage and tall, showy inflorescences. Like the similar, but smaller *Astilbe*, rogersias are colony-forming summer bloomers that revel in rich, moist soil. Shade is necessity in sunny, warm summer areas.



## Shieldleaf Rodgersia

(*Astilboides tabularis*)

**ZONE 3** • This moisture-loving herbaceous perennial requires semi-shade and produces large, shield-like leaves on long stalks from stout, spreading rhizomes. The botanical name for this plant was previously Rodgersia. The white plume-like flower clusters are borne on tall stalks above the foliage.



## Wild Celery

(*Angelica* spp.)

**ZONE 5 • BC NATIVES** • There are four *Angelica* species native to BC. All are handsome, aromatic herbaceous perennials ranging in size from less than a metre to more than 2m in height. They have compound leaves and dense umbels of yellowish-white flowers. Best in moist, well-drained soil in the sun.





## HIMALAYAN BALSAM

(*Impatiens glandulifera*)



R. Mueller



Ministry of Agri. and Lands

**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

People are intrigued by this exotic looking annual because of its pink, helmet-shaped flowers (another common name is “policeman’s helmet”), rapid growth and entertaining mode of explosive seed dispersal. Unfortunately, the species is extremely invasive in moist, shaded environments, and is now rapidly spreading in temperate woodlands around the world. Dense stands that reach 1.5 to 2 m tall can dominate local vegetation in summer.

As it dies back in the fall, bare soil is exposed, inviting erosion over the winter. Though not commonly available for sale, people who are unaware of its destructive potential contribute to its spread by collecting and spreading seed.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Wild Bleeding Heart

(*Dicentra formosa*)

**ZONE 5 • BC NATIVE** • Delicate, lacy leaves and arching sprays of hanging pink flattened bells characterize this spring-blooming woodland native. Growing 15 to 45 cm from a shallow network of fleshy, brittle rhizomes, bleeding heart spreads rapidly in humus-rich, well-drained soil in shade.



P. Vrijmoed

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z4) **Western Meadow Rue** (*Thalictrum occidentale*) BC native; (z2) **Larkspur** (*Delphinium parishii*, *D. elatum*); and (z3) **Pink Turtle** (*Chelone lyonii*, *C. oblique*).



## Cardinal Flower

(*Lobelia cardinalis*)

**ZONE 2** • An eastern North American native herbaceous perennial that grows in wet or even boggy soils. The flowers are brilliant vermilion red, produced through summer and fall on flowering stalks a metre in height. Cultivars with green or bronze-purple leaves, and white or pink flowers are available.



## Beard-tongue

(*Penstemon barbatus*)

**ZONE 4** • A spectacular summer blooming perennial with slender spikes of pendulous, narrow-tubed flowers attractive to hummingbirds. The 30 to 60 cm tall stalks are excellent for cutting. There are numerous cultivars, in colours from white and pink through deep red. Sun and well-drained soil.



## Red Columbine

(*Aquilegia formosa*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • Columbines are easy plants in the garden, prospering in part shade in moist well-drained soil. The bright red flowers and ample nectar of this 50 to 90 cm tall native are irresistible to hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. Finches and other small birds are attracted to the dry seed heads.



## Pink Monkey Flower

(*Mimulus lewisii*)

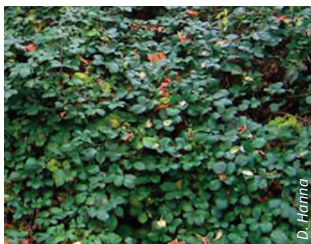
**ZONE 7 • BC NATIVE** • A robust, sticky-soft-hairy perennial that grows along stream sides, seepage areas and other well-drained, wet sites. The broad, tubular flowers are bright rosy pink with a yellow throat, produced in summer atop 30 to 90 cm tall leafy stems. Sun tolerant, but needs cool conditions.





## HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY

(*Rubus armeniacus*)



D. Hanna



L. Scott



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Himalayan blackberry is valued for its delicious berries, as shelter for wildlife, and for its security potential along property boundaries. Blackberry colonies abound on disturbed sites, in pastures, and along roadsides, stream banks, fresh-water wetland margins, forest edges, and in wooded ravines over much of Southwestern BC. Himalayan blackberry outcompetes low-growing native vegetation, and prevents the re-establishment of natural flora. Plants can grow up to 5 m tall, with canes up to 12 m long that root wherever they touch the ground. Thickets are impenetrable for people and wildlife, and increase the potential for flooding and erosion.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Nootka Rose

(*Rosa nutkana*)

**ZONE 5 • BC NATIVE** • A thicket-forming deciduous shrub, up to 2.5 m tall. The velvety pink flowers are borne in summer, and at 4 to 8 cm across, are the largest of all of our native roses. An excellent shrub for wet conditions, suitable in a hedgerow or as a barrier plant.



L. Scott

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z5) **Black Raspberry** (*Rubus occidentalis*) BC native; (z3) **Salmonberry** (*Rubus spectabilis*) BC native; (z4) **Highbush Blueberry** (*Vaccinium corymbosum*); and (z5) **Rocky Mountain Thimbleberry** (*Rubus deliciosus*) BC native.

## Thimbleberry

(*Rubus parviflorus*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • A common deciduous shrub, native to a wide area of North America. The leaves are among the largest of any *Rubus* species, and its white flowers are showy. In cultivation, it is an adaptable shrub, growing well on moist to dry, partially shaded to sunny sites. The small fruits are edible.



## Marionberry or Boysenberry

(*Rubus* ‘Marion’ or ‘Boysen’)

**ZONE 5** • Combining many of the best qualities of blackberries and raspberries, from which these hybrids are derived, these plants are vigorous, but not invasive. Boysenberry is more raspberry-like in taste; marionberry’s flavour is more complex—it is “the” blackberry of commercial pies in North America.



## Red Raspberry

(*Rubus idaeus hybrids*)

**ZONE 5** • Red raspberry is native to Europe, but cultivated hybrid raspberries have been improved using many species, including BC natives. Summer-fruiting cultivars, such as ‘Skeena’ and the widely cultivated ‘Tulameen’ were bred locally. Some cultivars are hardy to Zone 3.



## Black Huckleberry

(*Vaccinium membranaceum*)

**ZONE 5 • BC NATIVE** • A densely branched deciduous shrub to about 1.5 m, common in forest openings and clearings in the mountains. The sweet, tasty berries are purplish black, about 7 to 10 mm in diameter, produced sparingly in summer. Northern and eastern selections are much hardier.





## KNOTWEEDS

(*Fallopia japonica*, *F. sachalinensis*, *Polygonum polystachyum*)



L. Scott



B. Stewart



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Knotweeds are vigorous, adaptable plants with densely leafy, bamboo-like stems that grow from extensive, often deeply rooted rhizomes.

Growing 2 to 5 m high, these aggressive perennials have feathery, white to pink flowers with significant seed production potential. They are among the most difficult plants to eradicate from the landscape, as both seeds and rhizome fragments can start new plants. Large leaves shade out other plant species, and infestations can dominate stream banks, where they increase soil erosion potential and degrade habitat. Invasive knotweeds are found throughout coastal areas of the province, as well as in the southern Interior.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Red-osier Dogwood

(*Cornus stolonifera*)

**ZONE 2 • BC NATIVE.** Red-osier dogwood is a suckering shrub, 1 to 6 m tall, common on moist soils along stream sides and at wetland margins. The slender stems are bright red when young and root wherever they touch the ground. Flattened heads of white flowers are followed by white berries.



K. deBoer



**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z6) **Oceanspray** (*Holodiscus discolor*) BC native; (z3/4) **Saskatoon berry** (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) BC native; (z5) **Fothergilla** (*Fothergilla major*); and (z7) **Heavenly Bamboo** (*Nadina domestica*).

## Black Elderberry

(*Sambucus racemosa* var. *melanocarpa*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • This big deciduous shrub is found primarily east of the Coast Mountains. It produces pyramidal clusters of white flowers in early spring, and later, black berries that are attractive to many kinds of birds. Elderberries grow quickly on moist sites in shade and need room.



## Peegee Hydrangea

(*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora')

**ZONE 3** • A deciduous shrub, 3 or 4 m tall, with large, frothy, pink-tinged conical flower-heads at the tips of flexible branches in late summer. Other cultivars are similar, but with stiffer, more open flower-heads; e.g. 'Tardiva', the earlier flowering 'Praecox' and the darker 'Pink Diamond'. Moist, humusy soil in sun.



## False Solomon's Seal

(*Maianthemum (smilacina) racemosum* subsp. *amplexicaule*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • A handsome clustering herbaceous perennial, the 50- to 100 cm ascending tall stems clothed with alternating broad leaves. Conical heads of foamy white flowers are borne in early summer at the stem tips, followed by shiny red berries. For partly shaded, humus-rich soil.



## Goat's Beard

(*Aruncus dioicus*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • A robust herbaceous perennial with broad fern-like leaves on stiffly upright stems. In summer, the tiny white flowers are held in multi-branched arching clusters at the tops of the 1 to 2-m tall stems. Spreading in partly shaded, moist soil from short creeping rhizomes.





## MOUNTAIN BLUET

(*Centaurea montana*)



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Mountain bluet is a prized ornamental for its adaptability, large, bright blue flowers—the largest blue flowers of all the knapweeds—and ability to self-seed in gardens. Unfortunately, it appears to be prone to escaping cultivation in certain areas of the province. Mountain bluet is similar to bachelor's buttons (*Centaurea cyanus*) in that it is adapted to seeding in dry-land situations.

Preliminary evidence suggests it has begun to naturalize in meadows and pastures and on roadsides. Like that species, it may reduce forage opportunities for wildlife and livestock.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Common Camas

(*Camassia quamash*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE •** Large, purple-blue, star-like flowers are borne on 30 to 90 cm stems above rosettes of grass-like leaves in April. Plants produce edible bulbs, which were a food source for many First Nations across western North America. Camas require humusy soil, summer moisture and drainage.



**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z3) **Large-leaved Lupine** (*Lupinus polyphyllus*) BC native featured p. 11; (z4) **Cupid's Dart** (*Catananche caerulea*) p. 10; (z3) **Nodding Onion** (*Allium cernuum*) BC native featured p. 10; and (z4) **Sea Lavender** (*Limonium latifolium*) p. 8.



## Summer Gentian

(*Gentiana septemfida*)

**ZONE 3** • A low-mounding herbaceous perennial with royal-blue trumpet flowers in late summer. Originating in the mountains of Asia, this species is among the most adaptable of all gentians, benefiting from moist, humus-rich, well-drained soil. Cool conditions best, with some shade required when hot.



## Bluehead Gilia

(*Gilia capitata*)

**ZONE 3** • A hardy annual, native to dry, sandy, gravelly or rocky waste places in southern BC, or more likely, introduced from similar habitats in the western United States. The sky-blue, 2 to 3 cm pompom flowers are borne on the tops of slender, white-woolly stems 25 to 100 cm tall.



## Clustered Bellflower

(*Campanula glomerata*)

**ZONE 3** • An early summer blooming herbaceous perennial with tight, rounded clusters of deep purple-blue funnel-shaped flowers above mounding foliage. Vigorous and floriferous, this species is an easy garden plant in sun or light shade, in well-drained, moisture retentive soil. Good cut flower.



## Wild Bergamont

(*Monarda fistulosa*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • An aromatic herbaceous perennial with slender stems, 50 to 90 cm tall, arising from slender creeping rhizomes. Summer blooming with globular terminal heads of pink, hummingbird pollinated flowers. Good for any garden soil in sun. The stems and leaves are a source of oil of thyme.





## ORANGE HAWKWEED

(*Hieracium aurantiacum*)



L. Scott



J. Leekie

**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Orange hawkweed is a hardy herbaceous perennial with striking orange dandelion-like flowers. It originated in Europe and was exported widely as an ornamental, but has escaped cultivation and is now considered a noxious weed in many parts of the world. Plants have attractive, bristly-hairy leaves and flower stems. Each individual can produce hundreds of viable seeds; these are distributed by wind to new locations and once established, plants spread via stolons and can form dense mats of rosettes, blanketing roadsides, fields or meadows. Orange hawkweed is considered a major concern across interior BC from the Peace River region to the Kootenays and Cariboo.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Arkwright's Campion

(*Lychnis x arkwrightii*)

**ZONE 6** • A hardy self-seeding annual or short-lived perennial to about 45 cm with clusters of large, brilliant orange flowers above bronze foliage in early summer. Sun or part shade in moist, well-drained soil. Deadhead to lengthen flowering. Dark-leaved and hardier (z3) dwarf cultivars are available.



Jim C. (Flickr)

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z3) **Tall Coneflower** (*Rudbeckia laciniata*) featured p. 18; (z4) **Common Rockrose** (*Helianthemum nummularium*) p. 50; (z5) **Himalayan Cinquefoil Hybrids** (*Potentilla atrosanguinea* hybrids); and (z5) **Scarlet Avens** (*Geum quellyon*).

## Pinks and Carnations

(*Dianthus spp. and hybrids*)

**ZONE 4** • Perennial carnations and pinks require full sun, good drainage and lime-rich soil. Most produce low mounds of blue-green evergreen leaves. Allwood pinks (z4), *D. x allwoodii*, includes a wide variety of cultivars, some like florist's carnations (*D. caryophyllus*). They are often listed under that name.



## Alpine Aster

(*Aster alpinus subsp. vierhapperi*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • A clustering perennial aster native to northern mountain meadows and alpine areas on limestone derived soils. The flowers—small daisies with white to violet rays and yellow centres—are perched at the tips of 30 cm stems in early summer. Commercial plants are the European subsp.



## Heart-leaved Arnica

(*Arnica cordifolia*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • Densely hairy herbaceous perennial with heart-shaped leaves and bright yellow 5-cm-wide daisies throughout the summer on 20 to 50 cm stems. Plants are rhizomatous, sometimes forming clumps. For dry or moist well-drained soil in sun or part shade.



## Blanket Flower

(*Gaillardia aristata*)

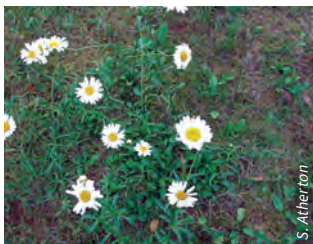
**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • A herbaceous perennial native to dry-land areas of western NA and a common garden subject. The lax stems are 20 to 70 cm tall and carry numerous 6 cm diameter reddish brown-centred, yellow-rayed flowers from June until autumn. Easy to grow in sun and well-drained soil.





## OXEYE DAISY

(*Leucanthemum vulgare*)



S. Atherton



L. Scott



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Oxeye daisy has always been popular with gardeners for its cheerful, copiously produced daisy flowers and ability to grow under tough conditions. It is still commonly sold in “wildflower mixes,” but it is highly invasive, having long escaped from ornamental and roadside plantings. Oxeye daisy tolerates a wide range of environmental conditions and can be found in fields, open forests, roadsides and disturbed areas across the province. It is unpalatable to cattle and can dominate pastures or rangeland, reducing forage production and quality.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### White Swan Coneflower

(*Echinacea purpurea* ‘White Swan’)

**ZONE 3** • A white-flowered selection of the common purple coneflower. The 8 cm diameter flower heads have wide, white rays and orange conical centres. Grows to about a metre in height in well-drained, fertile soil in the sun. Attracts butterflies and bees, and an excellent cut-flower.



G. Basset



**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z2) **Showy Daisy** (*Erigeron speciosus*) BC native featured p. 10; (z3) **Native Arnicas** (*Arnica spp.*) BC native featured p. 40; (z4) **White Wood Aster** (*Aster divaricatus*); and (z3) **Smooth Fleabane** (*Erigeron glabellus*) BC native.

## White New York Aster

(*Aster novi-belgii* white selections)

**ZONE 4** • The common New York aster is noted for providing late season (Sept. and Oct.) colour in the garden. White flowered selections include ‘Snow Cushion’ (15 cm), ‘White Opal’ (40 cm), ‘Arctic’ (double flowers, 90 cm). Full sun, rich, moist soil with good drainage. Taller cultivars may need staking.



## Cutleaf Daisy

(*Erigeron compositus*)

**ZONE 4 • BC NATIVE** • A perennial herb 3 to 25 cm tall, native to dry, rocky soils in the mountains. White to pink, many-rayed flowerheads with yellow centres arise from low cushions of finely dissected leaves in late spring. Self-seeding under rock garden conditions (full sun and sharply drained, infertile soil).



## Alpine Aster

(*Aster alpinus*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • A clustering perennial aster native to northern mountain meadows and alpine areas on limestone derived soils. The flowers—small daisies with white to violet rays and yellow centres—are perched at the tips of 30 cm stems in early summer. Commercial plants are the European subsp.



## Beach Fleabane Daisy

(*Erigeron glaucus*)

**ZONE 4** • Native to coastal areas of Oregon and California, this evergreen herb forms tough mounds of foliage, 20 to 30 cm high, through which yellow-eyed, white to purple-rayed daisies emerge in spring. Ideal for exposed sites near the ocean, but also suitable for drier areas in full sun with well-drained soil.







## PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

(*Lythrum salicaria*)



L. Scott



R. Mueller

**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Purple loosestrife was once widely promoted for gardens, especially those with moist or wet soil, because it is an adaptable plant with beautiful, long-lasting pinkish purple blooms that attract hummingbirds and a variety of pollinating insects. Unfortunately, it is also an extremely aggressive invader of marginal habitats, such as along lakeshores, wetlands, ponds, wet pastures, and roadside ditches. Purple loosestrife spreads prolifically and has become a major threat to wetlands across North America. Dense, impenetrable stands grow to 2.5 m tall in both natural and disturbed areas, out-competing and replacing native species and impacting animal and bird habitat.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Blazing Star

(*Liatris spicata*)

**ZONE 3** • A drought tolerant herbaceous perennial native to the prairies of the American Midwest. Tall spikes to 1 m or more, thick with purple (or white) flowers, stand above mounds of grass-like leaves in summer. For a sunny position in well-drained soil. The long-flowering spikes attract butterflies.



J. Byrd

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z2) **Wilson's Ligularia** (*Ligularia wilsoniana*); (z4) **False Spirea** (*Astilbe x arendsii*); (z6) **Blue Hyssop** (*Agastache foeniculum*) BC native featured p. 12; and (z3) **Native Lupines** (*Lupinus nootkaensis*, *L. polyphyllus*) BC native featured p. 11.



## Tall Delphinium

(*Delphinium elatum*)

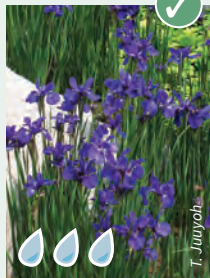
**ZONE 2** • The tall or candle delphinium is a vigorous herbaceous perennial native to the mountains of Europe and Asia, with deeply cut leaves and statuesque spikes of sky blue flowers to 2 m tall. Most commercial plants are hybrids, available in a range of colours. Deep, moist, fertile soil is essential.



## Bloody Iris

(*Iris sanguinea*)

**ZONE 4** • A herbaceous perennial iris from east Asia with bright blue (or white) flowers with yellow markings in late spring. Narrow grassy leaves form dense clumps in boggy soil, at wetland edges or planted directly in shallow water. Similar overall to the Siberian iris, but with broader-petaled, larger flowers.



## Hardhack

(*Spiraea douglasii*)

**ZONE 4 • BC NATIVE** • Few shrubs are as tough and trouble free as hardhack, capable of surviving seasonal flooding and drought, shade or sun. Hardhack has a prettier side, too. Pink flowers are borne in tall pyramidal clusters atop the leafy, flexible 2 m tall stems in early summer. Attractive to bumblebees.



## Spike Speedwell

(*Veronica spicata*)

**ZONE 3** • Summer blooming herbaceous perennials with blue, pink or white flowers in slender spikes above narrow dark green leaves. Available cultivars vary in flower colour and size, from 15 to 50 cm tall. Easy plants for the garden containers in full sun. Plants often rebloom after removing the spent flowers.





## RUSSIAN OLIVE

(*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Russian olive is a small ornamental tree native to western and central Asia. It was introduced to North America because of its attractive silver leaves, cold-hardiness, and tolerance of low humidity and drought. However, it is now invasive across many arid regions, including BC's Southern Interior. It displaces native vegetation and exploits the limited water resource where it has escaped cultivation and invaded dry areas. Russian olive has small, fragrant yellow flowers and edible silver berries that are sought after by wildlife and contribute to its spread.

**Russian Olive is a known invasive plant in the Kamloops, Okanagan and Lower Mainland areas. Inventories are required. Report all sightings immediately.**

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Scouler's Willow

(*Salix scouleriana*)

**ZONE 2 • BC NATIVE** • A vigorous, multi-stemmed deciduous shrub or tree, 3 to 20m tall. New shoots are bright yellow-brown and the small, yellowish pussy willows appear in late winter. Full sun, in moist, fertile soil. Willow flowers are wind-pollinated, but also produce nectar, attracting bees and butterflies.



**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z5) **Blue Elderberry** (*Sambucus cerulea*) BC native featured p. 29; (z4) **Weeping Pear** (*Pyrus salicifolia*); and (z4) **Pacific Ninebark** (*Physocarpus capitatus*) BC native featured p. 52.

## Silver Buffaloberry

(*Shepherdia argentea*)

**ZONE 3 •** A thorny, deciduous shrub, the branches and leaves covered in soft, silvery hairs. Plants are exceptionally hardy, growing 2 to 6 m tall along streams and on moist hillsides. Small yellow flowers are followed by red berries. Excellent for barrier plantings and attracting wildlife.



M. Lavin

## Sandbar Willow/ Coyote Willow

(*Salix exigua*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE •** This shrubby, colonizing species grows 4 to 7 m tall on riverbanks and gravel bars across North America. Noted for its handsome, slender, silvery-grey leaves and airy appearance, it is widely adaptable. Needs an open site with full sun. Excellent for stream bank stabilization.



M. Harte

## Pacific Crabapple

(*Malus fusca*)

**ZONE 5 • BC NATIVE •** A deciduous shrub or small tree to 12 m with variable leaves and thorny branches, that provides excellent habitat for birds. Broad clusters of white flowers are followed by 1.5 cm yellow to red or purple fruits. Tolerant of very wet soils and an excellent subject for hedgerow planting.



J. Leekie

## Wolf-willow

(*Elaeagnus commutata*)

**ZONE 2 • BC NATIVE •** A bushy, silver-leaved deciduous shrub growing 1 to 4 m tall on dry to moist, well-drained sites, primarily in the eastern and northern parts of the province. The small mealy berries attract wildlife and are preceded by clusters of sweetly fragrant yellow flowers in late spring. Best in full sun.



J. Riley



## SCOTCH BROOM

(*Cytisus scoparius*)



J. Leekie



J. Leekie



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Scotch broom is an invasive plant and one of the toughest, most drought- and sun-tolerant shrubs that grows in BC. The bright yellow pea-flowers are often regarded as a sign of impending summer weather. Scotch broom grows quickly to 2 m or more in poor soil, spreading rapidly by seed that is prolifically produced. Infestations can damage or destroy conifer seedlings, escalate wildfire intensity, and prevent the growth of nearby plants by releasing toxins into the soil. Originally planted for erosion-control along roadways, Scotch broom has now spread widely, especially in disturbed and open areas primarily along the coast and in the southern interior.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Prickly Rose

(*Rosa acicularis* var. *sayi*)

**ZONE 3 • BC NATIVE** • Excellent for open, sunny sites; other native rose species also make appropriate alternates. Great barrier or hedgerow plantings. Prickly rose has beautiful, fragrant pink flowers 5 to 7 cm across, and small, bright red hips. Spreads in well-drained soil by creeping rhizomes to form dense colonies of 1 to 1.5 m tall stems.



C. Bjork

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z2) **Wolf-willow** (*Eleagnus commutata*) BC native featured p. 46; (z3) **Elderberries** (*Sambucus spp.*) BC native featured p. 36; (z3) **Lewis's Mock Orange** (*Philadelphus lewisii*) BC native featured p. 13; and (z5) **Tall Mahonia** (*Berberis (Mahonia) aquifolium*) BC native featured p. 22.

## Shrubby Cinquefoil

(*Dasiphora (Potentilla) fruticosa*)

**ZONE 2 • BC NATIVE** • Until recently known under *Potentilla*, the shrubby members of this hardy, mostly yellow-flowered clan are now *Dasiphora*. Most commercial cultivars are derived from European and Asian stock. Taller cultivars (to 1 m or more) include: ‘Klondyke’, ‘Goldfinger’ and ‘Snowflake’.



## Forsythia

(*Forsythia hybrids*)

**ZONE 4** • The border forsythias, such as the common ‘Lynwood’, are robust, suckering shrubs with arching branches and bright yellow flowers produced in early spring before leaf emergence. Most are bud hardy to z6. Hardier cultivars, such as ‘Northern Gold’ (buds to z4) are typically smaller in stature.



## Deciduous Yellow Azalea

(*Rhododendron luteum*)

**ZONE 5** • This 2 to 3 m tall spreading shrub is known for its exquisitely fragrant, golden yellow flowers in early May. Though the nectar is **toxic**, it only poisons honey if it is the predominant food for honey bees. Plants are shade tolerant but flower best in full sun and benefit from moist, well-drained soil.



## Japanese Kerria

(*Kerria japonica* ‘Pleniflora’)

**ZONE 4** • A robust suckering shrub with slender, dark green stems to 3 m tall. The golden yellow, double-flowered pompoms are produced in spring and sparingly through summer along the arching branches. Grows in partial to full shade, in moist, well-drained soil.







## SPURGES (Leafy, Myrtle, Cypress) (*Euphorbia esula*, *E. myrsinities*, *E. cyparissias*)



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

A large number of *Euphorbia* species have been introduced to BC gardens, though only a few are problematic, most notably, leafy spurge. Others, such as the myrtle and cypress spurges, are showing invasive tendencies as well. Although these plants may still be popular in gardens, they are (like most *Euphorbia* species), toxic to humans, livestock and wildlife when consumed, or when latex (sap) contacts skin. Spurges readily invade roadsides, overgrazed pastures and dry meadows, which reduces forage opportunities for wildlife and livestock, as well as displaces native vegetation. Once established, they are difficult to eradicate.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Broad-leaf Stonecrop

(*Sedum spathulifolium*)

**ZONE 5 • BC NATIVE** • Primarily inhabiting rocky cliffs and boulders along the coast, this evergreen, rosette-forming species has waxy-grey-blue succulent leaves and yellow flowers. Spreads both by rooting of individual leaves and by above-ground stems, but requires sun and dry conditions to prosper.



**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z2) **Cushion Spurge** (*Euphorbia polychroma*); (z6) **Wood Spurge** (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*); (z7) **Martin's Spurge** (*Euphorbia x martinii*); and (z2) **Lance-leaved Stonecrop** (*Sedum lanceolatum*) BC native.



## Yellow Ice Plant

(*Delosperma nubigenum*)

**ZONE 5** • A hardy evergreen ice-plant from the high mountains of southern Africa. The sculpted, succulent leaves are packed together in pairs with the yellow, daisy-like flowers emerging between them, opening only centimetres above the mats of foliage. Rock garden or container with lean soil.



## Red Hot Poker

(*Kniphofia spp. and hybrids*)

**ZONE 6** • Perennials noted for narrow spikes of brightly coloured, closely packed tubular flowers above stiff, grassy leaves. Only a few species are suitable for the mildest gardens, but there are hardier hybrids. Most are 60 to 100 cm tall, the flowers in pastel colours. Moist soil with sharp drainage in sun.



## Common Rockrose

(*Helianthemum nummularium*)

**ZONE 4** • A trailing evergreen shrub, about 30 cm tall and wide, with small, dark green leaves and 2 cm bright yellow, saucer-shaped flowers in clusters at the branch tips. Flowering continuously through the summer given a sunny, moderately dry site with lime-rich soil. Also with white, pink or red flowers.



## Yellow Gem Shrubby Cinquefoil

(*Dasiphora fruticosa* 'Yellow Gem')

**ZONE 2** • **BC NATIVE** • Originally collected in the mountains on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State, this compact cultivar stands 30 to 60 cm tall. Large, bright yellow flowers are produced from spring until frost. Provide well-drained soil and sun. Tolerates drought when established.





## TAMARISK

(*Tamarix chinensis*, *T. ramosissima*)



D. Powell



F. & K. Starr

**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Tamarisks, also known as “salt-cedars,” are European, Asian and North African shrubs adapted to saline and alkaline soils. They produce light green foliage and airy clusters of light pink flowers. Mature plants can produce hundreds of thousands of seeds that are easily spread by wind and water. Unfortunately, tamarisks have escaped cultivation into riparian areas where they send deep roots into the ground that deplete limited water resources.

Additionally, stems and leaves secrete salt, which inhibits the growth of other vegetation. Tamarisks are a major concern, as they are now the dominant riparian species over much of southwestern North America.



**Tamarisk is also known to infest areas of Vancouver Island.**

IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Smoke Bush

(*Cotinus coggygria*)

**ZONE 5** • A deciduous shrub or small tree to about 6 m, with rounded leaves and tiny flowers in densely branched, smoke-like clusters, the clusters pink, green or grey and persisting into the late summer and fall. Purple, green and yellow-leaved forms are popular. Some people are sensitive to the cut stems.



Dow Gardens

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z3) **Lewis’s Mock Orange** (*Philadelphus lewisii*) BC native featured p. 13; (z3, z5) **Native Roses** (*Rosa acicularis*, *R. nutkana*) BC natives featured p. 33; and (z5) **Eastern Redbud** (*Cercis canadensis*).

## Rocky Mountain Juniper

(*Juniperus scopulorum*)

**ZONE 4 • BC NATIVE** • Large shrub or small, conical open-branched tree to 10 m, with coarse, vertically shredding bark and grey-green aromatic, evergreen foliage. Native to dry, often lime-rich rocky soils on open hills and mountain-sides. The south-coastal tree-juniper is the closely related *J. maritima*.



## Preston Lilac

(*Syringa x prestoniae*)

**ZONE 2** • Late-flowering, hardy lilacs originated in the 1920s by the Canadian breeder, Isabella Preston. Preston lilacs are shrubs or small trees with strong, upright stems and fragrant white, pink or rosy-purple flowers in conical heads. They require sunshine and fertile, humus-rich soil with plenty of lime.



## Pacific Ninebark

(*Physocarpus capitatus*)

**ZONE 4** • Restricted primarily to wet soils of the coast and wet interior zone, this shade-tolerant shrub grows 1 to 4 m tall and is noted for its layered, vertically peeling bark. Small white flowers are held in rounded clusters. Drought tolerant when established, but best in part shade or shade in moist, fertile soil.



## Birchleaf Spirea

(*Spiraea betulifolia* subsp. *lucida*)

**ZONE 2 • BC NATIVE** • A small deciduous shrub 30 to 60 cm tall, with nearly flattened, rounded terminal flower clusters 6 or 7 cm across. Blooming in early summer, the flowers contrast strongly with the deep green oval leaves. Any well drained soil in sun or part shade.





# INVASIVE

## TOADFLAX (Yellow, Dalmatian) (*Linaria vulgaris*, *L. genistifolia* subsp. *dalmatica*)



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Colony-forming herbaceous perennials, the stems growing 10 to 120cm tall from extensive, flexible rhizomes. Toadflaxes have bright yellow, spurred flowers and waxy blue-green leaves. Yellow toadflax—also known as “butter-and-eggs”—is smaller, to 80 cm, with narrower leaves and yellow and white flowers. Prolific seeders, they readily invade roadsides, pastures, grasslands, forest clearings, disturbed or cultivated areas. They are unpalatable to grazing animals and reduce forage quality. Originally introduced as ornamentals, and still unfortunately sold in ‘wildflower’ mixes; avoid these!



IAPP, August 2018

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Yellow Beard-tongue

(*Penstemon barbatus* ‘Schooley’s Yellow’)

**ZONE 4** • A bright yellow selection of the spectacular, summer blooming beard-tongue. Slender spikes of pendulous, narrow-tubed flowers attract butterflies, hummingbirds and bees. The 30 to 60 cm tall stalks are excellent for cutting. Sun and well-drained soil. ‘Schooley’s Coral’ is similar, with coral pink flowers.



**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z2) **Canada Goldenrod** (*Solidago altissima* subsp. *gilvocanescens*) BC native.

## Mersea Yellow Penstemon

(*Penstemon pinifolius* 'Mersea Yellow')

**ZONE 7** • An outstanding yellow selection of the normally orange-flowered pine-leaf penstemon. Mounds of bright green, needle-like leaves and masses of narrow-tubed yellow flowers on stalks to 30 cm over a long season. Summer moisture with good drainage and afternoon shade in arid climates.



## Daylily

(*Hemerocallis hybrids*)

**ZONE 3** • Long-lived, clumping herbaceous perennials with grassy leaves and trumpet-shaped flowers on upright stems. Flowers of lemon daylily (*H. lilioasphodelus*) are early with a strong citrus scent (to 90 cm). 'Stella de Oro' is compact (30 cm) with golden flowers all season. Any soil in sun or part shade.



## Snapdragons

(*Antirrhinum majus*)

**ZONE 9** • Tender perennials grown as summer annuals. Plants are bushy with flower spikes to 90 cm tall. Dwarf cultivars are more compact. Flowers on spur types produce nectar, and attract hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. Yellow cultivars look similar to toadflaxes. Moist, well drained soil in sun or part shade.



## Torch Lily

(*Kniphofia* 'Little Maid')

**ZONE 6** • This yellow-flowered torch lily produces stiff, upright spikes to about 60 cm tall, above mounds of grassy leaves. The flowers fade to creamy white below the open, yellow blooms. One of the most adaptable of all torch lilies, for a sunny situation with well-drained soil, or in milder areas, in a container.





# YELLOW FLAG IRIS

(*Iris pseudacorus*)



R. Mueller



L. Scott



**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

A beautiful species with sword-shaped leaves and showy yellow flowers, yellow flag is a popular choice for water gardens. However, it is extremely aggressive, spreading invasively by both seed and rhizomes. In shallow water and alongside waterways, yellow flag forms dense thickets of foliage to 2m or more tall. In water, the thick root mats collect sediment and reduce flow, displacing native plants and damaging wildlife habitat. This Eurasian native has fouled extensive habitat throughout southern BC and is currently spreading in the Southern Interior. Eradication is difficult, as seed is plentiful where yellow flag is established and even tiny rhizome pieces re-grow.



IAPP, August 2013

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Japanese Iris

(*Iris ensata*)

**ZONE 4** • The Japanese iris is an elegant pond-margin species with metre-tall upright leaves and broad, flattened, attractively marked flowers. Yellow is unknown in Japanese iris; however, modern hybrids of the species with yellow flag (“pseudata” irises) are intermediate in appearance, and reportedly sterile.



University of Georgia



**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z3) **Cattails** (*Typha latifolia*) BC native; (z3) **Bearded Iris Yellow Cultivars** (*Iris germanica*); (z5) **Blue Flag Iris** (*Iris virginicum*); and (z2) **Marsh Marigold** (*Caltha palustris*) BC native.



## Oregon Iris

(*Iris tenax*)

**ZONE 7** • Native to southwestern Washington and western Oregon, this herbaceous iris has very narrow grassy leaves and attractive, narrow petaled, lavender to creamy white or yellow flowers. The short creeping rhizomes produce tight clumps of leaves. Best in moist, well-drained soil in sun.



## Western Blue Iris

(*Iris missouriensis*)

**ZONE 3** • Perennial herb to about 50 cm tall, spreading from thick rhizomes. The flowers are light to deep blue with purple lines. Grows in marshy meadows and around moist lake margins in southeast Alberta and south to New Mexico; occurs sporadically in BC but probably introduced. Also known as Rocky Mountain iris.



## Butter and Sugar Iris

(*Iris 'Butter and Sugar'*)

**ZONE 3** • Sibirica-type iris with tight clumps of narrow upright leaves from compact creeping rhizomes, and slender flower stems to about 75 cm tall. Flowers are creamy yellow and white and make excellent cut flowers. Grow in humus-rich soil in sun. Drought tolerant once established.



## Japanese Water Iris

(*Iris laevigata*)

**ZONE 4** • Otherwise known as rabbit-ear iris for the small upright petals (standards) in the centre of the flower, this species revels in shallow water or along pond margins. Flowers are very wide and showy, white to blue, purple or pink, on metre-tall stems among upright leaves about the same height.





## YELLOW ARCHANGEL

(*Lamium galeobdolon*)



J. Leekie



D. Hanna

**INVASIVE – AVOID USE**

Yellow archangel is a shade-tolerant trailing evergreen, popular for hanging baskets and as a groundcover. It is widely available, but gardeners should avoid purchasing this plant, as it spreads aggressively in gardens, smothering other plants and depleting soil fertility. Where it has escaped cultivation, usually in urban parklands and woodlands, yellow archangel is difficult to eradicate. Plants form dense mats on the forest floor, climbing up and over tree stumps and low-growing vegetation. Yellow archangel has spread in woodlands, ravines, and riparian areas throughout the Fraser Valley, Vancouver, Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.



IAPP, August 2018

## NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

### Alumroot

(*Heuchera hybrids*)

**ZONE 4** • Perennials grown either for their colourful, mostly evergreen leaves or for their sprays of vivid flowers or sometimes both. Many cultivars: e.g., ‘Vanilla Spice’: silver and green leaves; ‘Cinnabar Silver’: pewter and green. Sun or part shade in moist, well-drained, humus-rich soil with lime added.



M. Harter

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:** (z2) **Bunchberry** (*Cornus canadensis*, *C. suecica*, *C. unalaschkensis*) BC natives featured p. 15; (z7) **Redwood Sorrel** (*Oxalis oregana*); (z4) **Purple Wintercreeper** **Euonymus** (*Euonymus fortunei* ‘*Coloratus*’) featured p. 24; and (z4) **False Lily-of-the-valley** (*Maianthemum dilatatum*) BC native featured p. 16.

## Hosta

(*Hosta* spp. and hybrids)

**ZONE 3** • Herbaceous perennials with broad, spade-shaped waxy leaves, often with impressed parallel veins. Surprisingly sun tolerant in moist soil and drought tolerant in shade. Most cultivars are grown for coloured or variegated leaves. Best in shade or part shade with rich, well-drained soil and constant moisture.



## Barrenwort

(*Epimedium* spp. and hybrids)

**ZONE 5** • Evergreen and deciduous woodland perennials, known for their neat, compound leaves and small, brightly coloured flowers on wiry stems in spring. Some spread slowly, while others clump. They all benefit from humusy, well-drained soil, and partial shade. The spurred flowers attract butterflies.



## Yerba Buena

(*Clinopodium douglasii*)

**ZONE 5 • BC NATIVE** • A trailing, aromatic, evergreen herb from a woody rhizome. Stems are generally prostrate, occasionally rooting where they touch the ground, and forming mats. The tiny white flowers are borne in the axils of the small paired leaves. Common on dry, open forested sites in sandy soil.



## Foam Flower

(*Tiarella trifoliata*)

**ZONE 6 • BC NATIVE** • A diminutive herbaceous perennial, producing three-lobed or three-parted leaves 3 to 12 cm wide, and tiny white star-like flowers on arching stems to 15 cm long. Spreading slowly by rhizomes under woodland conditions; i.e., shade or partial shade in moist, well-drained, humus-rich soil.



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## “Alert” Species

The following species are additional **unwanted** horticulture plants to be on alert for in BC. Gardeners should avoid purchasing or planting:

Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)  
 Bristly Locust (*Robinia hispida*)  
 Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*)  
 Common European Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)  
 Common Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)  
 Common Morning Glory (*Convolvulus sepium*)  
 Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)  
 Dame’s Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)  
 European Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*)  
 European Mountain Ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*)  
 Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)  
 Fragrant Water Lily (*Nymphaea odorata*)  
 Goutweed (*Aegopodium podgraria*)  
 Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*)  
 Horse Chestnut (*Ausculus hippocastanum*)  
 Knapweeds (*Centaurea* spp.)  
 Parrot Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)  
 Purple Deadnettle (*Lamium purpureum*)  
 Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea* var. *picta*)  
 Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophae* spp.)  
 Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*)  
 Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)  
 Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)  
 Wild Clematis/Old Man’s Beard (*Clematis vitalba*)



Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)

# Additional Resources

Below are some useful resources to help you learn more about invasive plants and participate in local initiatives.

## Local Nurseries or Garden Centres

Most nurseries and garden centres have trained professionals to assist you.

## British Columbia Landscape and Nursery Association

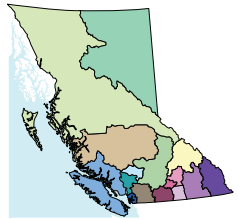


The BCLNA is a non-profit organization working to serve BC's nursery growers, landscape professionals, retail garden centres, and the associated landscape horticultural trade.

**1-800-421-7963**

**[www.bclna.com](http://www.bclna.com)**

## Regional Invasive Species Organizations of BC



A growing network of regional organizations deliver localized management, outreach, and educational programs on invasive species. To learn about invasive plants, how to manage or report invasive plant sightings, or participate in weed pulls, contact your regional committee:

**1-888-933-3722**

**[www.bcinvasives.ca](http://www.bcinvasives.ca)**

## Invasive Species Council of British Columbia

Through province-wide cooperation and coordination, the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) is a grassroots non-profit organization working to minimize the negative ecological, social, and economic impacts caused by the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive species.



The ISCBC website offers a variety of resources including factsheets on specific invasive plants and management activities, current research and control methods, technical reports, newsletters, media resources, and much more!

**1-888-933-3722 or 250-305-1003**

**[info@bcinvasives.ca](mailto:info@bcinvasives.ca)**

**[www.bcinvasives.ca](http://www.bcinvasives.ca)**

## Government agencies, private organizations, and invasive plant councils across Canada and beyond

Several government ministries are involved in invasive plant management in BC. In recent years, the number of provincial invasive plant councils and committees has grown to include almost every province and territory across Canada. Find information and links at:

**[www.bcinvasives.ca](http://www.bcinvasives.ca)**

## Regionally Relevant Publications

### » **Garden Wise: Non Invasive Plants for Your Garden**

There are two versions of this guide available:

- Eastern Washington: [www.nwcb.wa.gov/pdfs/Eastern\\_Garden\\_Wise.pdf](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/pdfs/Eastern_Garden_Wise.pdf)
- Western Washington: [www.nwcb.wa.gov/pdfs/Western\\_Garden\\_Wise.pdf](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/pdfs/Western_Garden_Wise.pdf)



### » **Garden Smart Oregon: A Guide to Non-Invasive Plants**

This guide identifies more than 25 of Oregon's invasive plants, along with alternatives and tips for gardeners on how to select non-invasive replacement plants.

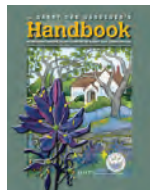
[www.opb.org/programs/invasives/extras/gardensmartguide.pdf](http://www.opb.org/programs/invasives/extras/gardensmartguide.pdf)



### » **The Garry Oak Gardener's Handbook**

This handbook has helpful tips on planning a native plant garden, removing invasive species, acquiring plants, mulching, caring for Garry Oak trees, dealing with deer, and more.

[www.goert.ca/gardeners\\_restoration/garryoak\\_gardener.php](http://www.goert.ca/gardeners_restoration/garryoak_gardener.php)





BCLINA

# grow me instead

The introduction and spread of invasive alien species is affecting Canada's environment, economy and society, including human health. The current threats posed by existing and potential invasive alien species are significant and growing at an alarming rate. It is essential for Canada to address invasive alien species. Canada needs to take measures to protect and conserve natural resources, associated industries, as well as the health of wildlife and humans.

*An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada,  
September 2004*



**Invasive Species  
Council of BC**

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