



**Native Plants For Urban Landscapes**

*Alberta plants that survive and thrive.*

Spring 2025

## GROUNDCOVERS

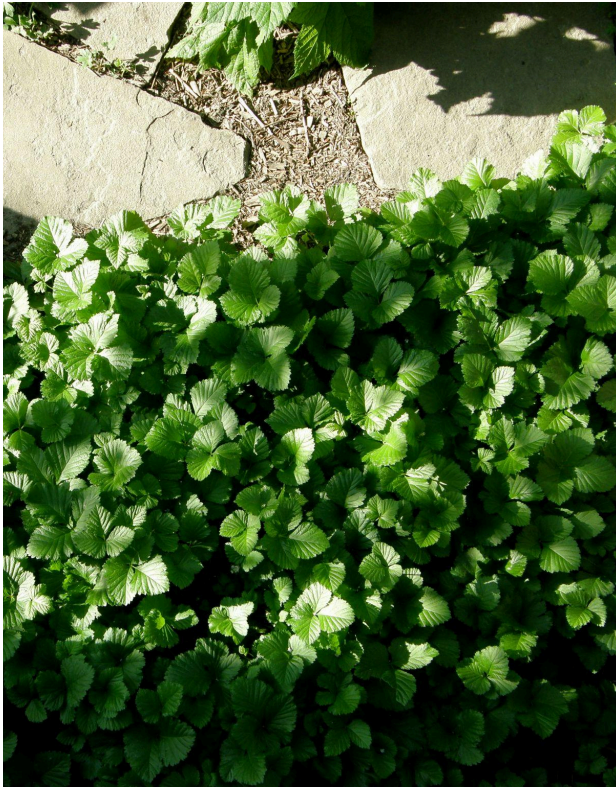


**Bearberry / Kinnikinnick** - *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*  
**Groundcover, evergreen, drought tolerant, medicinal properties**

Low, mat-forming evergreen groundcover growing no higher than 0.2m tall by 3m wide. Features rigid green leaves that have a reddish tinge through winter. In early summer tiny, fairy-like white and pink urn shaped flowers sit under the leaves and give way to bright red berries that hang on until spring.

This is a hardy and versatile plant. It is great growing as a groundcover under trees and shrubs, and is hardy enough to line sidewalks or fill in dry empty areas under eaves. It will trail off rock ledges or down slopes; it will grow to a thick mat if happy. This ground cover does well in shade to full sun, but the red winter colour will be more pronounced with more sun. Successful in many soil types; is drought and salt tolerant but does have a preference for well drained soils.

Slow to establish, but well worth the wait. Ensure to keep weeds and grass away as it quickly becomes unkempt and hard to maintain. No need for fall/spring cleanup.

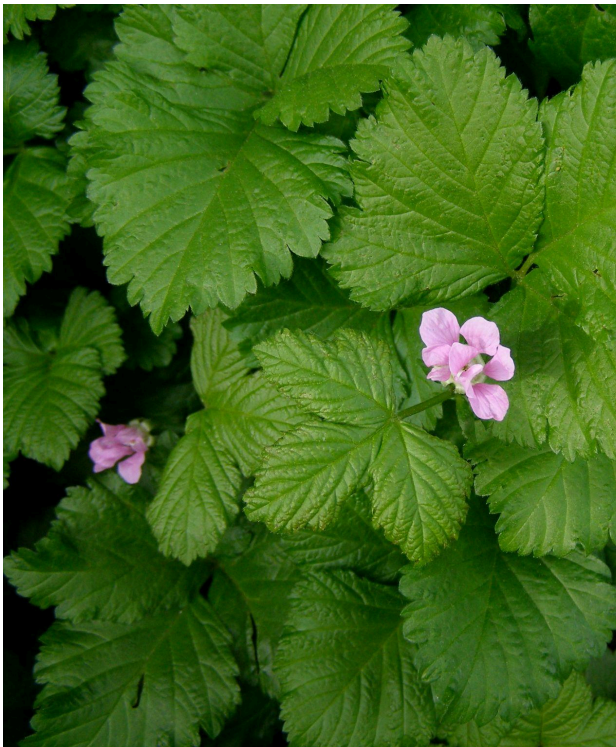


**Dwarf Raspberry 'Druby' - *Rubus arcticus* 'Druby'**

***Groundcover, mounding, shade plant, edible, medicinal***

Low, mounding ground cover that grows quickly but stays relatively contained for a raspberry. Grows low, 0.15m tall x 0.5m wide. Features lush green leaves that are nicely textured and deeply lobed. Beautiful, delicate single pink flowers sit on top of the plant and bloom in early summer and give way to a small aggregate raspberry.

Loves the shade and is great for small spaces and those deep, dark, cold north facing areas. Likes a moist soil with lots of organic matter but can handle periods of drought. This is a herbaceous perennial and will die back to the ground every year. Requires minimal fall/spring cleanup.



This is a new introduction to the nursery scene and we are very excited about its potential as a landscape plant. We are working on increasing propagation over the next few years.



### **Oregon Grape** - *Berberis repens*

**Evergreen, edible, medicinal, groundcover, spring flowers, fall color, drought tolerant**

This is a unique and highly under-utilized plant found in the Southwest corner of Alberta. This small, woody groundcover is drought tolerant, shade-loving and evergreen. Oregon Grape produces cheerful clusters of fragrant yellow flowers in the spring that give way to edible and plentiful berries in the fall. The purple-blue berries taste great and can be eaten raw or preserved, and wildlife will happily help themselves.

This low growing shrub thrives in the understory so does well in tricky spaces like under spruce trees or eaves. It stands 0.25m tall and spreads, not aggressively. It prefers full to part shade, but can handle full sun. Foliage is evergreen, can be waxy or matte, and turns shades of purple and red in winter depending on it's exposure level.

This unique selection is an exciting addition to landscape plants - it's versatility, drought tolerance and edibility are extremely attractive for urban landscapes. No maintenance needed except for weeding to prevent competition with grass.

**SHRUBS** - *small to large***Alder-leaf Buckthorn** - *Rhamnus alnifolia*

Small shrub, small footprint, fruiting, shade plant, winter interest

This is a small shrub with beautiful glossy, dark green foliage. Staying compact, this shrub grows to about 0.5m tall and wide. Inconspicuous yellow-green flowers appear in spring and give way to attractive, large dark berries. Fall colour is a yellow brown and leaves drop off quick. Winter interest is provided by the short, curving stems with smooth grey bark.



This plant has a steady growth rate and hardy nature. It will slowly form into a cluster, making this a great plant to fit under trees, in front of raised decks, or in other shaded corners. The dark berries are attractive, but poisonous to humans. The fruit is beneficial to wild life though, and you will see birds visiting in the fall. This plant comes from wet areas so can handle seasonal dampness, but also performs well in drought conditions once established. It can grow successfully in a variety of soil types.

This is a neat and tidy little shrub. It does not require any pruning and is easy to maintain once established.





### **Sagebrush** - *Artemisia cana*

***Small shrub, drought tolerant, medicinal properties, four season interest***

Small shrub with eye catching, long narrow silver-green leaves that persist through winter. Grows roughly 0.5 to 1.5m high, with twisted old wood and exfoliating bark. Flowers bloom in late, hot dry summers and are tiny, yellow and clustered along the stem. Flowers are fairly insignificant, the silver foliage and bark are the selling features of this shrub.

A striking accent plant due to the way its silver features contrast against other plantings and the persistent leaves give it interest throughout the winter. Has a distinctive 'sage' scent, so it works great in sensory or fragrance gardens, or along a walkway or patio. Tough and hardy, this shrub can be used in back alleys, under eaves or any other hot dry, neglected area.

Programmed to live and thrive in those hot dry problematic areas, this plant will suffer if **not** given a Drumheller-like environment. Fairly fast growing and can sucker and self seed, although not aggressively. Can be pruned back to maintain size and encourage fresh new growth.



**Potentilla** - *Dasiphora fruticosa*

***Small shrub, drought tolerant, late and long bloomer, attracts pollinators***

Small, dense shrub 0.3 to 1m tall growing in a nice compact ball. The leaves have small hairs on them which give a slight silver cast to the foliage, a unique characteristic of the native potentilla. Small yellow flowers begin to bloom in mid to late summer, are abundant and will last into the first few frosts. Seed heads are clustered at the end of branches and persist, giving it some winter interest.

A great shrub especially for late season interest. It's late bloom period gives pollinators a valuable late season food source as well. Makes an attractive small hedge without a lot of maintenance, can stand alone, or works well in mass plantings.

This is an open prairie plant that needs to be planted in a suitable site; it prefers full sun and dry conditions. Extremely drought and Chinook tolerant, this seed source has proven to be very hardy. To keep tidy with a more groomed appearance, prune and shape in early spring (we do not recommend shearing).





**Bracted Honeysuckle** -*Lonicera involucrata*

**Small shrub, shade plant, showy flowers and berries, attracts wildlife**

Under cultivation, this shrub reaches 1.5m tall by 1.5m wide. It keeps a neat, upright form with thick branches and fat buds in the spring. Typical of honeysuckles, the older bark exfoliates. Large coarse leaves give the shrub a lush appearance. Yellow flowers appear in pairs in summer, with an eye catching scarlet red bract that remains as the fruit appears. Fruit is a pair of dark glossy purple berries (not to be eaten).



This shrub does well in the shade and will give the landscape a lush, shady forest feel. When in bloom, this shrub will attract hummingbirds and other pollinators, and in the fall, birds feed on the berries. Prefers a moist, well drained soil.

This is a beautiful, low maintenance plant. It keeps its shape with minimal pruning and has shown to be insect resistant. Difficult to propagate, so numbers are low for availability - but making it all the more unique to Alberta gardens.





**Snowberry** - *Symphoricarpos albus*

***Small shrub, shade tolerant, showy berries, four season interest***

Low branching shrub with a well kept compact form growing 0.5m by 0.5m maximum. This shrub is petite and delicate with thin, reddish brown branches that turn grey as it ages. The leaves are profuse and blueish green with wavy margins. Tiny, pinkish white flowers bloom in summer and give way to pillowy white berries that persist through the winter.

Works well as a small hedge, understory plant or in small plantings and will look good all year. Has nice colour contrast against other plantings. Adaptable in all its planting requirements, it will tolerate drought and poor soils. Its form will be the thickest and prettiest in full sun, but will still be successful in shadier areas.

Very low maintenance but can eventually sucker, avoid disturbing roots.





**Yucca** - *Yucca glauca*

***Small spiky shrub, unique form, drought tolerant, attracts wildlife, edible***

Low, grass-like 'shrub' with long and spiky pale evergreen leaves around 0.5m by 0.5m. Flowers bloom once the plant is mature and happy and are an impressive spike of cream coloured, bell shaped flowers. This plant is found in the very southern end of Alberta, and through Montana, so is often not listed as native to Alberta.

This is a statement plant and lends an unusual form to the garden, and its light dusty appearance contrasts well against other plantings. Can be used in place of perennial grasses, and works well as an animal deterrent or physical barrier. Works great in a rock garden or any hot, dry site.

This is a great, hardy plant for hot and dry areas. It grows slowly but is definitely worth the wait (flowers will come after a couple of years). If the plant is overwatered or in too much shade it will not flower. Regular maintenance to keep weeds and grass away is recommended, but be careful, the leaves are quite sharp. No need for fall/spring cleanup.



**Powderface Willow** - *Salix commutata* 'Powderface'

***Small - medium shrub with soft silvery leaves, drought tolerant***

This is a well behaved, neat and tidy silver willow. Features a narrow silver leaf, and hairy grey branches that give it a soft smoky appearance throughout all the seasons. Upright form with parallel branching and growing up to 1m tall by 0.5 m wide. Small catkins show later in summer and persist, but are fairly insignificant.

Use this shrub to create an eye catching hedge or use it as an accent plant. Stays compact and tidy, making it perfect for small sites. This is an alpine plant, so unlike many willows prefers full sun and dry conditions. Very low maintenance.

*Bow Point Nursery introduction.*



### **Dwarf Birch** - *Betula glandulosa*

***Medium shrub, compact, drought tolerant, four season interest***

This is an upright shrub reaching up to 2m, with a narrow base widening to no more than 1m wide. Branches are dark red with a smoky grey appearance at the tips due to the abundance of lenticels which create a pleasing texture. Attractive small round dark green leaves through summer, giving way to outstanding orange-red fall colours. Flowers are insignificant and green and give rise to the more attractive catkins. Both male and female catkins show up in late summer-fall.

A great choice for urban lots because it's well behaved with a small footprint. It offers four season interest as a low maintenance hedge, or as a stand alone feature in a small space. This shrub is very drought tolerant and can withstand harsh urban environments but is still flexible in its planting requirements. It will do well in full sun to partial shade and grows well in dry as well as moist areas.

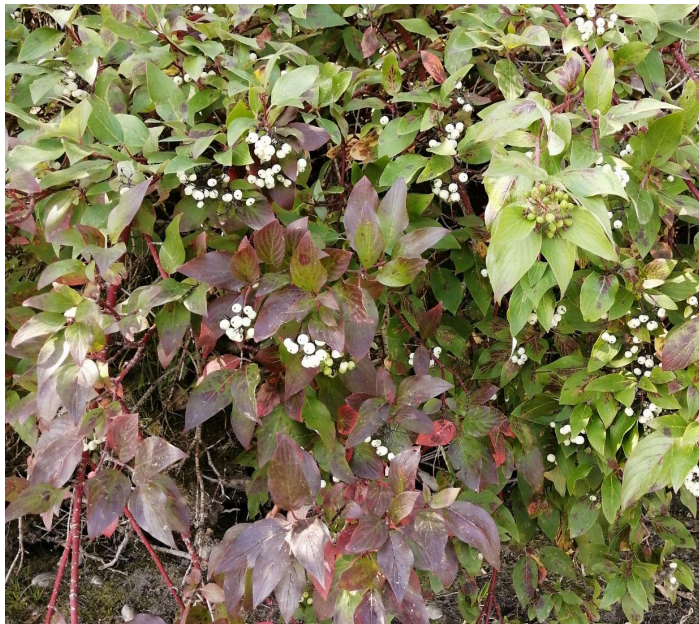
Definitely considered a low maintenance shrub; it maintains its shape without pruning and is not messy in the fall. Plant in a mulched bed as it does not perform well with grass or weeds growing around the base.



**Red Twig Dogwood - *Cornus sericea***

***Medium- large shrub, four season interest, drought tolerant, attracts wildlife***

A medium to large, widespread shrub up to 3m high, and growing usually as wide as it is high. The deep green leaves give the shrub a thick and bushy appearance, and gain a striking deep red in the fall. Flowers are clusters of small white flowers at the ends of branches, blooming in mid summer with a pleasing fragrance. In late summer clusters of showy white fruit mature, sometimes with a bluish tinge, and persist through fall. Eye-catching dark red branches stand out in contrast to the winter landscape.



This is a very flexible plant that can be used in all landscapes with striking four season interest. Grows well in many conditions, from full sun to partial shade and is extremely drought tolerant. It can be used in any way- as a specimen plant, windbreak or hedge. This shrub will attract birds and pollinators through the seasons.

Although it grows well in many conditions, it will always be thickest in appearance in full sun. The natural growing habit of this shrub is for the

bottom branches to slump over and root in order to spread, but can be easily maintained by keeping the bottom branches pruned upwards. Minimal mess with berries and leaves.



**Gold Currant** - *Ribes aureum*

**Medium - large shrub, drought tolerant, showy blooms, edible fruit**

A medium to large shrub growing up to 1.5m tall by 1.5m wide and has a loose shaggy appearance with long branches. New wood is a pleasing tan and area adorned with a three lobed leaf. Leaves are green

throughout the summer and a brilliant dark red in the fall. An abundance of yellow flowers appear in late spring and continue to bloom for several weeks and give way to edible dark red-black fruit that hangs on until the first few frosts.

This shrub has many features that lend itself to being a good choice for urban landscapes. The showy, long-blooming flowers offer great early summer interest and give way to the most reliable of the fruiting shrubs from the prairies, and the fruit is delicious and can be used in many ways. The fruit also attracts birds to your yard. Because of its larger size, it makes a great focal point when planted in small groups and also makes a bold hedge. This is a prairie plant so it likes it hot, dry, open and windy, and is extremely drought tolerant.

If not planted in the correct conditions, this plant will suffer and may develop disease. It's shape is fairly open and thin as it matures, consider gentle pruning to keep its shape. Fruit hangs onto branches for a long time, until frost or the birds eat the berries so it is not considerably messy.





**Russet Buffaloberry** - *Shepherdia canadensis*

**Medium - large shrub, drought tolerant, edible fruit, attracts wildlife, nitrogen fixing**

A rarely used but neat and tidy shrub that grows in a nice round shape up to 1.5m tall and wide. Densely branched with new growth that is uniquely speckled with bronzy-gold flecks. Leaves are a dark leathery green with a pale underside with distinctive reddish brown speckles. Small yellow flowers bloom in early spring, providing an excellent food source for pollinators early in the season. In early summer, flowers give way to eye-catching clusters of bright red berries along the branches, although only the female plants will bear fruit.



Versatile in every way, this shrub will be successful in full sun to partial shade. Drought tolerant, chinook tolerant and will grow in any soil; Buffaloberry is also a nitrogen fixer. This is a shrub that can be used in any landscape, and makes for great structure in the garden. The berries are incredibly eye-catching and can be eaten, although you do need sugar to cut the bitterness. These berries are highly prized by the birds and other wildlife.



This shrub does not like its roots to be disturbed after planting, so planting in a mulched perennial bed is best. Not recommended for landscapes in bear country as the fruit can attract them.

**Saskatoon** - *Amelanchier alnifolia*

***Large, upright, drought tolerant, edible fruit, spring blooms, attracts pollinators***

This is an upright, much-branched tall shrub with a variable height of 1-6m tall. Individuals will be tall and narrow, up to 1m wide, but can sucker to form a larger grove. Small white flowers appear in clusters in early spring, before beginning to leaf out. Leaves are small and round with a matte green appearance, and fall colour will range from orange to bright red. Berries are dark purple and delicious.

Saskatoons have a nice upright form and a relatively small footprint, so they can make for great screening for privacy or as a specimen plant. Planting requirements are specific; this is an open prairie plant so will not tolerate wet soil. Prefers hot, dry, and open areas, but will tolerate partial shade.

Will withstand chinooks and drought. Delicate white flowers appear in spring with the much prized fruit ripening in mid summer.

Diseases such as fungal issues and leaf spot can occur if not given enough wind movement and/or planted in wet conditions. Can sucker overtime, avoid disturbing the roots. Otherwise, very low maintenance.





## CLIMBERS



**Western Clematis** - *Clematis lingusticifolia*  
***Climbing vine, small white flowers, fast grower***

A perennial woody vine growing up to 5 m tall. It will form a dense growth pattern and quickly grow. Leaves are compound with pointed tips giving the overall appearance a nice texture. Delicate clusters of small white starburst flowers bloom in mid to late summer, covering the vine. Flowers give way to 'hairy' seed heads that persist into the fall.

Fantastic for climbing a trellis to quickly provide a screen or lush green living wall. Will adapt to a wide range of sites, from sun to shade and dry to moist soils. Be creative with this vine and encourage it to spread across areas where a groundcover is needed, it will even grow under that spruce. This plant has four season appeal including dainty white flowers that give way to prominent seed heads which remain on the vine through the winter. Flowers attract pollinators including butterflies.

This native clematis does not require any special care and will be a far better low maintenance choice over introduced clematis. Clematis buds on old wood so do not cut down at the end of the season, although it does well with rejuvenation pruning if in need of a clean up.



## **Honeysuckle Vine -**

*Lonicera dioica*

***Climbing vine, showy flowers and berries, shade tolerant***

A slow growing vine that will climb or form a small pleasing shrub without support. The thick, lush green leaves have a smooth margin and clasp around the stem, with the top leaves forming a cup at the bottom of the flowers. Flowers are bright, bold, yellow and pink trumpet flowers in a cluster at the top of the branch. Blooming in mid summer, the flowers then give way to a bright red cluster of juicy berries that attract wildlife.

This is a flowering vine that will climb a trellis, up a tree or wall without help. It is versatile in its planting and can even be made into a pleasing shrub if left unsupported or be trained as a groundcover, making it a great choice for small spaces. This vine is far

harder than cultivar honeysuckles and is extremely drought tolerant, and can be planted in full sun to partial shade. Hummingbirds, butterflies and bees will all visit this plant.

This is a slow growing plant, but definitely worth the wait for its tropical looking blooms and lush foliage. This vine is very insect resistant and requires little maintenance or cleanup.

## TREES



### **River Alder** - *Alnus incana*

**Small footprint, long bloom, winter interest, deer resistant, nitrogen fixing**

This native species of Alder is a perfect candidate for small spaces or urban landscapes. It has a small footprint and upright form, growing up to 6m tall and with up to a 4m canopy. This small tree boasts a dark green, furrowed leaf with a nice texture. In the spring the male catkins dangle in the breeze and can elongate three to four inches, making a spectacular show. Winter interest is provided by the smooth grey-brown bark and the small, attractive, persistent female catkins.



River Alder is a nitrogen fixing shrub, so is a welcome addition on poor soils. It can thrive in a variety of conditions including shade and wetter areas, and is fire resistant. It offers cover and food to a large number of wildlife, and its early spring flowers are great for native pollinators.

River Alder is great for screening or shade. It can be pruned while young or planted close together to encourage upright, even columnar, branching. It's quick and steady growth rate make it a great choice for new landscapes that need some form or cover fast.



**Tamarack - *Larix laricina***  
**Small footprint, conifer, feature tree, attracts wildlife, four season interest**

Tamarack is a small to medium-sized deciduous conifer tree. This is an extremely cold hardy tree, and can be variable in size based on growing conditions, reaching anywhere from 8-15m tall by 3-8m wide. In the spring, soft, electric green needles appear in clusters, and are flushed out by late spring. Small, compact cones grow along branches, maturing in fall and persisting through the winter. Tamarack, like all *Larix* species, are iconic for its needles that turn an attractive gold before dropping in the fall.



This long lived conifer is commonly found in poorly drained muskeg areas in the boreal forest and foothills, so does best with a moderate amount of moisture, but can handle seasonal changes. It does best planted in full sun. This tree can handle variable soil conditions, including compacted urban clay.

It can be used as a statement tree, in mass plantings or mixed into shrub beds for interesting texture and form. It will bring wildlife into your yard, especially through the fall and winter. The versatility of the Tamarack, in combination with it's small footprint, makes it an excellent choice for urban landscapes.

**Wright Nursery**

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