



# Tahoe Friendly Gardens

## Native & Adapted Plants

Native and adapted *Tahoe Friendly* plants require less water, fertilizer and pesticides and can include a diversity of options for your home landscape. They will however require irrigation while getting established. It is a good idea to group plants by their sunlight and moisture requirements. All plants on this list are considered *Tahoe Friendly*. Some plants may require a few more resources than others but if combined with more natives they can bring beauty to your landscape. ***Happy Gardening!***

### **Sunlight:** plant requirements

- **Sun:** Six hours or more in direct sun during the growing season. Less light will typically result in less growth and bloom production.
- **Partial Shade:** An area where plants get filtered sun instead of direct sun. If plants do get direct sun it is usually early or late in the day.
- **Shade:** Plants that germinate and survive under low conditions. Most of the shade plants can tolerate partial sun.

**Moisture:** The recommended moisture content for each plant is listed in the description.

### Sun Perennials

- **Arnica** *Arnica chamissonis*—native, tolerates partial shade, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Aster** *Aster*—native and adapted, tolerates partial shade, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Baby's Breath** *Gypsophilia spp.*—adapted, the classic bouquet filler, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Bee Balm** *Monarda hybrids*—adapted, will tolerate partial shade, fragrant flowers, attracts hummingbirds, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Blanketflower** *Gaillardia aristata*—adapted, tolerates partial shade, and needs dry to medium soils.
- **Blue Fescue** *Festuca glauca (F. cinerea)*—adapted, ground cover grass, tolerates partial shade, good rock garden plant, and needs moderate to medium soil moisture.
- **Blue Oat Grass** *Helicotrichon sempervirens*—native, tolerates partial shade and needs regular water.
- **Candytuft** *Iberis sempervirens*—adapted, tolerates partial shade, good rock garden groundcover, good companion with phlox, and needs moderate to medium soil moisture.
- **Catmint** *Nepeta spp.*—adapted, tolerates partial shade, drought tolerant, fragrant, varieties from 6" to 4 ft., and water regularly in extreme heat; tolerates brief drought when established.
- **Cinquefoil** *Potentilla hybrids*—native and adapted, groundcovers to shrubs, and needs medium to wet soils.
- **Coneflower, Purple** *Echinacea purpurea*—adapted, attracts pollinators, drought tolerant, easy to grow, reaches 2 ft. in height, and needs medium to wet soils.
- **Coreopsis cultivars** *Coreopsis hybrids*—adapted, relatively easy-to-grow member of the sunflower family, and needs medium to wet soils.
- **Daisy, Coulter's** *Erigeron hybrids*—native and adapted, shrubby flowers, tolerates partial shade and needs medium to wet soils.
- **Daylily** *Hemerocallis hybrids*—native and adapted, tolerates partial shade, great plant in many varieties, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Delphinium** *Delphinium hybrids*—native and adapted, and needs medium to wet soils.
- **Dusty Miller** *Artemisia hybrids*—adapted, tolerates partial shade, good as a groundcover, fragrant, self-sows freely, and needs light to moderate soil moisture.

- **Flax** *Linum lewisii*—native, tolerates partial shade, self-sows freely, blue flowers and needs dry to medium soils.
- **Foxglove** *Digitalis hybrids*—adapted, tolerates partial shade, attracts pollinators, reaches 2-3ft, and needs moderate water.
- **Fuchsia, California** *Zauschneria canum*—adapted and needs dry to medium soil moisture.
- **Gayfeather** *Liatris spicata*—adapted, self-sows freely, and needs medium to wet soil.
- **Geum** *Geum chilense*—adapted, drought tolerant, needs good drainage, reaches 1-2 ft. in height and needs moderate to medium soil moisture.
- **Gilia, Star or Scarlet** *Ipomopsis aggregate*—native, tolerates partial shade, often difficult to grow, biennial, and needs low to moderate soil moisture.
- **Globeflower** *Trollius*—adapted, tolerates part shade, and needs moderate to medium water.
- **Hops** *Humulus*—adapted, sun, fast growing perennial vine, can grow up to 15 ft., and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Iris, Hartweg's** *Iris hybrids*—native and adapted, tolerates partial shade, and needs medium to wet soil moisture.
- **Japanese Blood Grass** *Imperata cylindrical 'Rubra'*—adapted, drought tolerant, clumping grass, good fall color, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Joe-Pye Weed** *Eupatorium purpureum*—adapted, attracts pollinators, may be hard to find, tolerates part shade, and needs moderate to medium soil moisture.
- **Lamb's ear** *Stachys byzantina*—adapted, tolerates partial shade, very competitive, drought tolerant and needs dry to medium soil moisture.
- **Larkspur, Mountain** *Delphinium glaucum*—native and adapted, sun to part shade, can grow 3-4 ft. tall, blue flower, and needs wet soil.
- **Lupine** *Lupinus spp.*—native and adapted, tolerates partial shade, and needs dry to medium soil. *L. brewers* is a good native ground cover option.
- **Mallow** *Malva alcea*—adapted, easy to grow, needs good drainage, drought tolerant, and needs moderate soil moisture.
- **Ostrich Fern** *Matteuccia struthiopteris*—native and needs medium to wet soil moisture.
- **Pennyroyal** *Monardella odor*—native, foliage herb, may be difficult to grow, and needs dry soils.
- **Penstemon, Azure** *Penstemon hybrids*—native and adapted, good rock garden plant, and needs dry to medium soil moisture. *P. heterodoxus* is a good groundcover.
- **Peony** *Paeonia* hybrids—adapted, doesn't transplant well, tolerates partial shade, fragrant flowers, requires well drained soil and needs wet soils.
- **Phlox, summer** *Phlox hybrids*—native and adapted, sun to partial shade, and needs dry to moderate soil moisture.
- **Pincushion flower** *Scabiosa caucasica*—adapted, low growing plant, blooms most of summer, well drained soils and needs moderate to medium soil moisture.
- **Pink, Chinese** *Dianthus chinensis*—adapted, tolerates partial shade, thrives in light well-draining soil, good groundcover, and needs moderate soil moisture.
- **Poppy, California** *Eschscholzia californica*—adapted, tolerates partial shade, drought tolerant, reseeds easily, annual, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Poppy, Oriental** *Papaver orientale*—adapted, tolerates partial shade, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Primrose** *Primula spp.*—adapted, plant in organically enriched, well-drained soil, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Red-Hot Poker** *Kniphofia uvaria*—adapted, attracts birds, drought tolerant, and needs dry to medium soil moisture.
- **Saxifrage** *Saxifraga bryophara*—native, tolerates partial shade, good rock garden plant, and needs wet to medium soil.

- **Sea Holly** *Eryngium amethystinum*--adapted, drought tolerant, prefers dry well-drained soil, can handle poor to moderate soil moisture.
- **Sibbaldia** *Sibbaldia spp.*--adapted, tolerates partial shade, good rock garden plant, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Snow in Summer** *Cerastium tomentosum*--adapted, good plant for rock gardens, groundcover or as edging, drought tolerant and needs well drained soil.
- **Speedwell, Pink Woolly** *Veronica incana*--adapted, good groundcover, drought tolerant, and needs dry to medium soil moisture.
- **Stonecrop** *Sedum spp.*--native and adapted, tolerates partial shade, attracts pollinators, succulent perennial, groundcover varieties available, easy to grow and can sustain dry soils.
- **Strawberry, Mountain** *Fragaria virginiana*--native, tolerates partial shade, good groundcover and needs medium to wet soil.
- **Sulfur Buckwheat** *Eriogonum umbellatum*--native, drought tolerant, good rock garden plant, and needs little to moderate water.
- **Sweet William** *Dianthus barbatus*--adapted, good rock garden plant, attracts butterflies, many cultivars available, and needs moderate soil moisture.
- **Wallflower, Siberian** *Erysimum hieracifolium*--adapted, tolerates partial shade, good groundcover and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Yarrow** *Achillea hybrids*--adapted, 'Moonshine' is not aggressive and requires less maintenance than other varieties, tolerates partial shade, attracts butterflies, drought tolerant and needs dry to medium soil moisture.

## Partial Shade Perennials

- **Alumroot or Coral Bells** *Heuchera spp.* –native and adapted, attractive foliage and flowering groundcover, and needs wet to medium soil moisture.
- **Black Snakeroot** *Cimicifuga (Actaea) racemosa* –adapted, moist, well drained soils.
- **Bleeding Heart** *Dicentra hybrids* –adapted, tolerates shade, self-sows freely and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Campanula, Bellflower** *Campanula hybrids*—adapted, full sun in cooler climates, will spread once they start growing, and needs moderate to regular water.
- **Cinquefoil, Spring** *Potentilla neumanniana*—adapted, part shade to sun, flowering ground cover, good rock garden plant and needs medium to wet soil moisture.
- **Columbine** *Aquilegia hybrids* –adapted, attracts hummingbirds, and needs well drained soils with medium soil moisture.
- **Common Thrift** *Armeria maritima*—adapted, good rock garden plant, and needs wet to medium soil moisture.
- **Cranesbill** *Geranium himalayense* –adapted, good rock garden plant, self- sows freely, and needs moist to well drained soils.
- **Creeping Buttercup** *Ranunculus repens*—adapted, sun to shade, easy growing groundcover, and needs regular soil moisture.
- **Herman's Pride** *Lamium galeobdolon*—adapted, partial shade to shade, good rock garden plant and groundcover, drought tolerant, and needs regular moisture.
- **Jacob's Ladder** *Polemonium occidentale*—native, attracts butterflies, and needs regular soil moisture.
- **Lady's Mantle** *Alchemilla mollis*—adapted, sun to partial shade, good groundcover, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Ligularia, Ragwort** *Ligularia dentate*—adapted, and needs moist soils.
- **Maiden Grass** *Miscanthus sinensis* –adapted, sun or partial shade, and needs regular to moderate moisture.
- **Meadow Rue** *Thalictrum*—adapted, likes winter chill, protect it from wind, attracts butterflies, and needs regular soil moisture
- **Meadowsweet** *Filipendula rubra*—adapted, partial shade to sun and needs medium to wet soil moisture.

- **Monkshood** *Aconitum hybrids*—native and adapted, partial shade to shade, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Plantain Lily** *Hosta hybrids*--Adapted, partial shade to shade, easy to grow, and needs moist to dry soil.
- **Rhubarb, Ornamental** *Rheum*—adapted, grows extremely well in Tahoe, tolerates sun and needs regular water.
- **Strawberry, Wood** *Fragaria vesca*—adapted, good rock garden plant, and needs medium to wet soil moisture.
- **Thimbleberry** *Rubus parviflorus* –native, tall ground cover, sun to partial shade, flowers and berries, wet to medium moist soil, drought tolerant, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Thyme** *Thymus hybrids*—adapted, drought tolerant, attracts pollinators, fragrant and needs little to moderate soil moisture.

## Shade Perennials

- **Astilbe, False Spiraea** *Astilbe spp.* –adapted, needs medium soil moisture.
- **Bleeding Heart** *Dicentra*—native and adapted, needs regular soil moisture.
- **Bracken Fern** *Pteridium aquilinum*—native, summer and fall deciduous, partial to full shade and needs medium to wet soil moisture.
- **Lily of the Valley** *Convallaria majalis*-- adapted and needs medium to wet soil moisture.
- **Lungwort** *Pulmonaria*—adapted, partial to full shade, ground cover, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Monkeyflower** *Mimulus spp.*—adapted and native, tolerates partial sun, groundcover, and needs wet soil.
- **Solomon's Seal** *Polygonatum*—adapted, partial to full shade, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Spiderwort** *Trdescantia virginiana*—adapted, sun or shade self-sows freely, attracts butterflies, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Sweet Woodruff, Bedstraw** *Asperula odorata*—native, flowering groundcover, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Virginia Chain Fern** *Woodwardia virginica*—adapted and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Wood Fern** *Dryopteris*—adapted, partial to full shade and needs medium to wetsoils.

## Evergreen Trees & Shrubs

- **Bearberry or Kinnikinnick** *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* – native, low trailing, good ground cover, attracts pollinators, drought tolerant and needs low to moderate soil moisture.
- **Cotoneaster** *Cotoneaster spp.* – adapted, sun to part shade, low growing, red berries and needs moderate soil moisture.
- **Creeping Oregon Grape** *Mahonia repens* – adapted to Tahoe and western native, sun to shade, low growing, yellow flowers and needs moderate soil moisture.
- **Lavender** *Lavandula hybrids*– adapted, attracts bees and butterflies, sun, and needs moderate soil moisture.
- **Mahala Mat** *Ceanothus prostratus* – native, sun to light shade, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects, drought tolerant and needs little to no soil moisture.
- **Oregon Grape** *Mahonia aquifolium* – native, attracts birds, needs lots of pruning, sharp spines, drought tolerant and needs low to moderate soil moisture.
- **Rhododendron (includes Azalea)** *Rhododendron spp.* – adapted, filtered sunlight, requires protected site, and needs well drained wet soils.

## Deciduous Trees & Shrubs

- **Aspen** *Populus tremuloids* - native, full sun, gorgeous fall colors, spreads by root suckers, forms groves, and needs regular soil moisture.
- **Birch** *Betula spp.* – adapted, check zones for individual species and needs regular soil moisture.
- **Bitterbrush** *Purshia tridentata* – native, sun, attracts birds, pollinators, beneficial insects, drought tolerant, and needs low soil moisture.
- **Bittercherry** *Prunus emarginata* – native and needs moderate soil moisture.

- **Blue Elderberry** *Sambucus cerulea* – native, full sun to shade, regular water, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Burning Bush** *Euonymus alatus* – adapted, attracts birds, good fall color, drought tolerant and needs moderate to regular water.
- **Butterfly Bush** *Buddleja* – adapted, sun or light shade, moderate to regular water.
- **Cherry, Flowering** *Prunus spp.* – adapted, sun to partial shade, spring flowers, moderate water, fragrant flowers.
- **Chokeberry** *Aronia melanocarpa* – adapted, partial sun to sun, fall color and berries, medium to wet soil, drought tolerant, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Chokecherry** *Prunus virginiana* – native, berries, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Cinquefoil** *Potentilla fruticosa* – native and adapted, sun to partial shade, flowering, medium to wet soil, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Creambush, (Oceanspray)** *Holodiscus discolor* – native, sun to partial shade, flowering, dry to medium soil moisture, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Creeping Snowberry** *Symphoricarpos mollis* – full sun to shade, occasional deep watering, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Dogwood** *Cornus* – adapted and native, partial shade, large variety of shrubs and trees, regular water, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Golden Current** *Ribes aureum* - sun to partial shade, flowers and berries, medium to dry soil moisture, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Golden Chain Tree** *Laburnum x watereri 'Vossii'* – adapted, sun to partial shade, yellow chains of flowers, all parts poisonous, medium soil moisture.
- **Hawthorn, Washington** – *Crataegus phaenophyllum* – adapted, sun to part shade, good specimen tree for spring flowers and fall color, moderate soil moisture, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Honeysuckle** *Lonicera* – adapted, attracts birds, sun to partial shade, moderate to regular water, fragrant flowers, and drought tolerant.
- **Maple** *Acer spp.* -- adapted, shade to full sun, moderate to regular water, check zones for individual species.
- **Maple, Vine** *Acer circinatum* – shade, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects and needs medium to wet soil moisture.
- **Mock Orange, California** *Philadelphus lewisii*- native, light shade, moderate water, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Mock Orange, Sweet** *Philadelphus coronarius* – adapted, partial shade, must have good drainage, and needs moderate to regular soil moisture.
- **Mountain Alder** *Alnus icana 'tenuifolia'* – native, sun to partial shade, small tree, and needs wet soil.
- **Mountain Ash** *Sorbus spp.* – native and adapted, partial shade to shade, small tree or shrub, medium to wet soil, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Mountain Whitethorn** *Ceanothus cordulatus* – full sun to light shade, little or no water, drought tolerant, fire hazard, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Nine Bark** *Physocarpus capitatus* – native, sun to partial shade, moderate to regular soil moisture, fragrant white flowers, drought tolerant, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Oak** *Quercus spp.* – native and adapted, fall color, sun to part shade, and needs moderate soil moisture.
- **Plum, Purple leaf or Flowering** *Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpurea'* – adapted, sun to partial shade, good specimen tree for foliage color, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Rose, Rugosa** *Rosa rugosa* – adapted, disease resistant, naturalizes, single or double fragrant flowers, and needs moderate soil moisture.
- **Rose, Woods** *Rosa woodsii* – native, establishes quickly on disturbed sites, moderate soil moisture, attracts birds
- **Serviceberry** *Amelanchier* hybrids – native and adapted, sun to shade, moderate to regular soil moisture, attracts birds

- **Sierra Current** *Ribes nevadense* - native, sun to partial shade, flowers and berries, needs dry to medium soil moisture, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Sierra Gooseberry** *Ribes roezlii* - native, sun to partial shade, moderate soil moisture, good fall color.
- **Snowberry** *Symphoricarpos spp.* - native and adapted, sun to shade, medium soil moisture, white berries, attracts birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects.
- **Spiraea** *Spiraea* hybrids - adapted, partial shade, flowers, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Spiraea, Mountain** *Spiraea densiflora* - native, full sun to light shade, flowers, attracts birds, pollinators, beneficial insects, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Spiraea, Western** *Spiraea douglasii* - native, full sun to light shade, flowers, attracts birds, pollinators and beneficial insects, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Twinberry** *Lonicera involucrata* - native, partial shade to shade, medium to wet soil moisture, attractive berries, drought tolerant, good ground cover attracts birds, bees and butterflies.
- **Viburnum** *Viburnum* hybrids - adapted, sun to part shade, flowers and berries, attracts birds, and needs medium soil moisture.
- **Western Sand Cherry** *Prunus besseyi* - adapted, can handle a lot or a little of everything, ideal plant, and needs moderate soil moisture but can handle a drought too.
- **Willow** *Salix* - native and adapted, part to full shade, and needs wet to medium soil moisture.

## Resources

- **UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Friendly Gardening Program**, [http://ucanr.edu/sites/mglaketahoe/Tahoe Friendly Garden Program/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/mglaketahoe/Tahoe%20Friendly%20Garden%20Program/)
- **University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Living with Fire Program**, <http://www.livingwithfire.info> and **Choosing the Right Plants Guide**, <http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2007/eb0701.pdf>
- **South Tahoe Public Utility District, Water Conservation Program**. <http://stpud.us/waterconsv/>
- **Tahoe Resource Conservation District, Landscape Conservation Program**, <http://tahoercd.org/> and **Backyard Native Plants Guide**: [http://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Backyard-Native-Plants-Booklet High-Quality.pdf](http://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Backyard-Native-Plants-Booklet-High-Quality.pdf)
- **Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Home Landscaping Guide for Lake Tahoe**, <https://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nr/2006/eb0601.pdf>
- **Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, Tahoe Green Thumb Forum**, <http://ntcd.org/tahoe-green-thumb-forum/>