

Wildflowers

Cover seeds with 1/4" of soil; many species require fall sowing to germinate. Listed below are common steppe restoration species in the Methow Valley; consult field guides to learn about other species.

	Height	Self-seeder	Bloom time	Deer-resistant	Methow native	Description
Annuals complete their life cycle in one year. Plant them each year as seeds.						
Narrow-leaved phacelia <i>Phacelia linearis</i>	6-12"	yes	May-Aug	yes	yes	Attractive light blue cup-shaped flowers. Prefers sandy soils.
Biennials complete their life cycle in two years. The first year they produce roots and leaves; the second year they bloom, produce seed, then die. Most biennials effectively self-seed to ensure new plants in subsequent years; plant them in groups to encourage this.						
False yarrow <i>Chaenactis douglasii</i>	1-2"	yes	June-Aug	yes	yes	Pink-white flowers. Flourishes on sandy disturbed areas.
Scarlet gilia <i>Gilia aggregata</i>	1-2'	yes	May-Aug		yes	Brilliant red tube-shaped flowers are hummingbird magnets. Reseeds well on disturbed ground. Deer will browse but it often resprouts.
Blazing-star <i>Mentzelia laevicaulis</i>	18-36"	yes	June-July	yes	yes	Big showy yellow flowers. Often found on steep roadcuts.
Perennials live many years. They produce foliage, flowers, and seeds from the same roots every year. Many perennial forbs die back to the ground at the end of each growing season.						
Yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	2-3'	yes	May-Aug	yes	yes	Clusters of small white flowers atop aromatic fern-like foliage. Can spread aggressively; use limited amounts in seed mixes. Ruffed grouse eat the leaves.
Pearly everlasting <i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	2-3'	yes	May-Aug	yes	yes	Long-blooming white flowers; likes disturbed ground. Spreading roots. Flowers dry well. End-of-summer nectar attracts butterflies.
Fringed sagebrush <i>Artemisia frigida</i>	1-2'		July-Aug	yes		Mound of finely divided silvery leaves with tiny yellow flowers. Semi-woody stems stay low to the ground. Native to Idaho.
Michaux's mugwort <i>Artemisia michauxiana</i>	1-2'		May-July	yes	yes	Attractive mounded form. Aromatic leaves; inconspicuous blooms. Great landscaping accent.
Steppe aster <i>Aster chilensis</i>	1-2'		June-July	yes	yes	Profusions of colorful blue and white daisy-shaped flowers.
Arrowleaf balsamroot <i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i>	2-3'		May		yes	Signature flower of the Methow Valley. Yellow sunflower with large arrow-shaped leaves; highly attractive to bees. Slow to get established; expect to wait four years until flowers appear.
Golden aster <i>Chrysopsis villosa</i>	6-18"	yes	June-Aug	yes	yes	Low-growing with golden daisy-shaped flowers. Often found among cobbles along rivers.

	Height	Self-seeder	Bloom time	Deer-resistant	Methow native	Description
Threadleaved fleabane <i>Erigeron filifolius</i>	6-18"		June-Aug	yes	yes	Pale purple, pink, or white flowers with yellow centers. Excellent ground cover.
Linear-leaf daisy <i>Erigeron linearis</i>	6-12"		May-June	yes	yes	Excellent rock garden plant. Tight clumps with narrow green leaves and yellow daisy-shaped flowers.
Parsnip-flowered buckwheat <i>Eriogonum heracleoides</i>	1-2'	yes	May-July		yes	Narrow whorled leaves with white flowers that turn rusty as they mature. Excellent for landscaping beds. Several buckwheats attract seed-eating birds like common redpolls.
Snow buckwheat <i>Eriogonum niveum</i>	1-2'	yes	July-Sept	yes	yes	White to pink flowers with attractive grey leaves. Seedheads turn rusty color in fall. Aggressively colonizes sandy soils.
Sulphur buckwheat <i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	6-18"		May-June		yes	Tight mounds of small leaves with dramatic clusters of yellow blooms. Likes rocky substrates. All buckwheats attract nectaring butterflies.
Woolly sunflower <i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	6-18"	yes	May-July	yes		Bright yellow blooms above low-growing grey foliage. Excellent for landscaping beds. Native to central Washington.
Blanket-flower <i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	2-3'	yes	May-Aug	yes		Yellow and red sunflower-like blooms. Now established in disturbed areas in the Methow Valley.
Douglas sunflower <i>Helianthella uniflora</i> var. <i>douglasii</i>	2-3'		June-July	yes	yes	Methow Valley's "second" sunflower. Forms large clumps. Prefers sites that hold moisture later in spring.
Wild blue flax <i>Linum perenne</i> ssp. <i>lewisii</i>	2-3'	yes	May-Aug	yes		Clusters of long-blooming blue flowers. Self-seeds readily. Native to eastern Washington.
Silky lupine <i>Lupinus sericeus</i>	1-2'	yes	May-June		yes	Striking purple blooms. Colonizes disturbed areas. Best established by planting as seeds. Larval host plant for many butterflies, including Melissa blues.
Shrubby penstemon <i>Penstemon fruticosus</i>	12-18"		May-June		yes	Low, spreading habit with large, light-purple tube-shaped flowers. A favorite for our native bees.
Chelan penstemon <i>Penstemon prinosus</i>	1-2'	yes	May-June		yes	Common in the Methow Valley. Small plants with deep blue flowers.
Cutleaf penstemon <i>Penstemon richardsonii</i>	1-2'	yes	July-Aug	yes	yes	Striking pink to red flowers and interesting serrated leaf. Common in central Washington. One of the few deer-resistant penstemons.
Silverleaf phacelia <i>Phacelia hastata</i>	6-12"	yes	June-July	yes	yes	Attractive silvery foliage with curl of inconspicuous flowers. Can be invasive in garden beds.

Trees and Shrubs

Most shrub seeds need cold stratification to germinate; sow them in autumn. To establish trees and shrubs more quickly, put in living plants; fertilize and water regularly.

	Height	Makes a good screen	Deer-resistant	Degree of drought-tolerance	Description
Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	15-20'	yes		medium	White blossoms in late spring. Dense growth makes effective screen. Beautiful yellow foliage in fall. Important source of food for wildlife.
Big sagebrush <i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	3-5'		yes	high	Grey foliage gets leggy with overwatering. Light pruning will help maintain appearance in garden setting. Shallow seeding depth of 1/16". Provides nesting places for many birds, like Brewer's sparrows and gray flycatchers.
Rabbit-brush <i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	4-5'		yes	high	Excellent in landscaping beds. Bright yellow flowers in fall. Nectar attracts butterflies; seeds attract house finches and pine siskins.
Goldenweed <i>Haplopappus greenei</i>	1-2'		yes	high	Low-growing shrub with yellow blossoms in midsummer that attract butterflies.
Oregon grape <i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	2-4'		yes	medium	Yellow flowers atop shiny green foliage; purple berries in autumn make great jam.
Mock-orange <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	8-12'	yes		medium	Fragrant white blossoms in midsummer. Flowers attract native bees. Will tolerate some shade.
Ponderosa pine <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	60-80'	yes	yes	high	Needles come in bundles of three. Mature bark has orange cast. Seeds provide food for many mammals and birds, like red crossbills and pygmy nuthatches. Larval host plant for western pine elfin butterflies.
Quaking aspen <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	30-50'	yes		low	Beautiful white-barked tree. Prefers moist spots; spreads through roots. Plant away from lawns: regular watering encourages numerous new shoots. Red-naped sapsuckers nest in aspens and feed on sap.