

SMALL PERENNIAL PLANTS AND LOW GROUND COVERS FOR FRONT OF GARDEN							
COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	EXPOSURE: SUN/SHADE SOIL	SIZE: HEIGHT WIDTH	BLOOMING SEASON	BLOOM OR FOLIAGE COLOUR	SPECIAL OR SEASONAL INTEREST	NOTES
ALPINE POPPY	<i>Papaver alpinum</i>	Full sun	6" to 8" incl. bloom	Summer	Pale orange, soft yellow, white	Neat little mounds of finely dissected grey leaves	 <p>Like a miniature Iceland poppy Very pretty! Short-lived but will self-seed.</p>
ARABIS (WHITE or PINK ROCK CRESS)	<i>Arabis</i>	Sunny and well-drained position	6" by 18"	June	Tiny white or pink flowers	Attractive green and silver/white or gold foliage forming rosettes	
							<p>A foliage plant Vigorous and hardy An invaluable low-spreading "carpet"</p>

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<b>AUBRETIA</b>	<i>Aubretia deltoides</i>	Full sun to part shade	4" to 8"	Spring to summer	Pink, purple, lavender, blue	Covered in blooms in spring, but attractive for grey-green foliage as well.	<p>Stunning little mounded plant Perfect rock garden plant for front of any garden Cut back after blooming to maintain a neat form.</p>
							
<b>BABY'S BREATH</b>	<i>Gypsophila repens</i>	Full sun	4-6" high by 18' at maturity	Early summer then sporadically	White, pink	Attractive to butterflies	<p>This creeping form is a dwarf relative of the larger more upright and familiar florist's Baby's Breath as described in the Larger Perennials List. Extremely fine and delicate flowers cover the fine gray foliage. Wonderful plant as ground cover or edge of border plant Cut back to crown in late winter.</p>
							

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<b>BITTERROOT</b>	<i>Lewisia rediviva</i>	Sun Needs PERFECT drainage.	6" to 10"	Spring to summer	White, pink, red, magenta, orange, yellow	Some flowers have an almost feathered appearance.	<p>Not a common plant, it is a native of the Pacific North West and the Rocky Mountains. Foliage is succulent cylindrical rosettes with blooms balanced on a slender stalk that grows to 12' high. Good for edge of the border</p>
							
<b>BLEEDING HEART</b>	<i>Dicentra</i>	Part shade to full shade	6" to 2.5'	Spring to summer	White, pink, red, fuchsia	Special varieties: gold leaves, diminutive, blue-green leaves	<p>Many cultivars, all as beautiful as the original old-fashioned bleeding heart, are especially charming in miniature version.</p>
							

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<b>BUGLEWEED</b>	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Full sun to full shade	4" to 6"	Late spring into summer May re-bloom	Used mainly for foliage	Flowers: attractive spikes in purple or bright blue contrast beautifully with the carpet of leaves.	Attractive leathery foliage: variegated cream & green, silvery-green to various shades of burgundy While Ajuga may be seen as invasive, it is easily cut back and relatively slow-growing. Spent flower spikes should be removed to keep the plant tidy. It forms a low carpet of weed-suppressing and colourful leaves.
							
<b>CAMPANULA or BELL FLOWER</b>	<i>Campanulaceae</i>	Sun to Part Sun	4" to 3"	Early to mid-summer	White, pink, blue, purple	Adds a touch of blue. Bell-shaped flowers	Creeping mats for front of garden These smaller varieties can be cut back after blooming to encourage reblooming.
							

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<b>CINQUEFOIL</b>	<i>Potentilla verna nana</i>	Sun to part shade	3" to 6"	Summer into autumn	Many yellows, apricots, orange	Flowers over a long period.	<p>A cheery little plant and hard working too!                      Very hardy                      Many dwarf selections</p>
							
<b>COLUMBINE, or GRANNY'S BONNET</b>	<i>Aquilegia</i>	Part shade to shade Likes moist soil	6" to 18"	Spring to early summer	Many colours, some are bi-colours.	Delicate blooms on a delicate plant	
							<p>A Canadian woodland native with many cultivars                      Hardy</p>

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<b>DAYLILLY</b>	<i>Heemerocallis</i>	Sun to part shade Happiest in sun	6" to 48"	Late spring summer and into fall	All colours!	Cultivars include reblooming, or fragrant flowers. Hardy, easy to grow	<p>Please see comments on <b>Larger Perennial Plant List</b>. The Stella D'Oro shown far left was planted in most gardens by the builder. Many new colours of this dependable little plant are now available.</p>
							
<b>DIANTHUS</b>	<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>	Sun	4" to 12"	Summer	White, pinks, fuchsia, striped	Some are highly FRAGRANT (spicy carnation).	<p>Small plants that form well-behaved, rounded hummocks Dainty flowers float above stems on smaller plants, covering the plant with blooms. Can perfume an entire garden in the evening!</p>
							

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<b>FERN</b>	<i>Pteridophyta</i>	Part Shade to Full Shade Likes moist soil	10" to 4'	All seasons	A foliage plant	A texture companion and contrast for Hostas	<p>Huge variety from the diminutive "Fluffy Ruffles" to the tall regal or arching varieties</p>
							
<b>FOAM FLOWER</b>	<i>Tiarella</i>	Shade to part shade Moist well- drained soil	6" to 12"	Spring to early summer	White, pink	Leaves are maple-leaf shaped, have a lighter blotch and turn reddish in fall	<p>Forms a clump shape. Can be used as ground cover.</p>
							

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FORGET-ME-NOT	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Sun to part shade	4" to 8"	Early spring.	Myriads of tiny blue, purple, pink	Mounding, under-planting of bulbs or early bloomers	<p>A MILDLY INVASIVE CHARMER in your garden.</p> <p>Should be cut back to keep in check and tidy.</p> <p>Also self seeds.</p> <p>Reblooms later if sheared after first bloom.</p>
							
GERANIUM HARDY or CRANESBILL	<i>Geranium</i>	Sun to deep shade Prefers moist organic soil.	From minis at 5" to large at 4'	Spring to fall	Many shades of pinks, blues, purple, fuchsia	Flowers for a long time. Foliage turns red in fall.	<p>English country garden plant</p> <p>A different plant from <i>Pelargonium</i>, the annual geranium!</p> <p><i>Geranium 'Ballerina'</i> (far left), a is beautiful 8" plant that forms concise clumps of ash-grey leaves and 1" wide light pink flowers with a crimson vein.</p> <p>Blooms constantly, especially if trimmed back after spring bloom.</p>
							

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GOAT'S BEARD DWARF	<i>Aruncus aesthusifolius</i>	Full sun to part-shade	6" to 10" in bloom	Summer	Creamy white	Astilbe-like plumes float above the ferny foliage.	<p>Very nicely behaved, darling little plant for front of garden</p>
							
GRASSES, ORNAMENTAL SEDGES	<i>Many cultivars</i>	From full sun to full shade	Medium to small delicate types	All seasons	Blue, red, yellow, or variegated	<p>Winter seed heads provide interest.</p> <p>Wide variety of foliage</p> <p>A large group of foliage plants</p>	<p>Varieties include <i>miscanthus</i>, <i>fescues</i>, <i>pennisetum</i>, <i>carex</i>.</p> <p>Recommended specimens:</p> <p><b>Blue Fescue</b> - blue, full sun</p> <p><b>Japanese Blood Grass</b> - deep red, tender, full sun</p> <p><b>Little Bunny grass</b> for sunny spots</p> <p><b>Hakonechlea</b> - bright yellow, spectacular in dark shady corners</p> <p>A must for every garden!</p>
							

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HENS AND CHICKENS	<i>Sempervivum</i>	Full sun Hot places	2" to 4"	Summer	From green to bronze	Adds interesting texture to the garden with coarse foliage.	<p>Prefers hot dry place in the garden. Fleshy succulent rosettes produce smaller offsets that in turn, grow and produce offsets of their own.</p>
							
HOSTA	<i>Liliaceae</i>	Sun or shade cultivars	Minis at 3" to 12 "	Mid to late summer	White, blue, purple	Interest is in the leaves: yellow, bluish, blue-green, variegated.	<p>So many varieties! Valuable structural plant Sun-loving Hostas are in the yellow to greens, whereas bluish-grey tones love shade. Huge variety of leaf shapes, sizes, textures, puckered, variegated, edgings Bloom is secondary to attractive foliage. Cut back spent flower stems.</p>
							

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IRIS	<i>Iridaceae</i>	Sun	From minis at 3" to 2'	Late spring to early summer	All colours	Good cut flower So many varieties!	 <p>Must be deadheaded. Good cut flower</p>
IRISH MOSS SCOTCH MOSS PEARLWART	<i>Sagina subulata</i>	Sun to light shade	2" to 4"	Summer	Teeny tiny white flowers	An evergreen moss	
 <p>Slow-growing, very low, tufted carpet of fine, miniature foliage in lime green or dark green</p>							

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<b>LAMIUM</b>	<i>Habiatae</i>	Sun to part shade	8" to 24"	Spring to summer	White, pink, mauve	Leaf interest: lime green, white and green, variegated	<p>Variety of cultivars Ground cover Slow spreader Nice at edge of garden border Can be kept in check by light shearing after it blooms.</p>
							
<b>MOSS PHLOX</b>	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Sun	4" to 6" X 20" wide	Late spring to late summer	White, pink, mauve, blue	A creeping groundcover smothered in tiny blooms.	<p>Very showy and nice for front of garden</p>
							

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<p><b>PRIMULA or PRIMROSE</b></p> 	<p><i>Primula</i></p>	<p>Full sun to shade Enjoys even moisture.</p>	<p>4" to 10" incl. blooms</p>	<p>Spring to mid-summer</p>	<p>Virtually all colours!</p>	<p>Huge variety of bloom types Neat, hardy plants for front of garden</p>	<p>Too many cultivars to list, but of note: The <b>True Cowslip</b> Primula- (Primula veris) (Yellow) The <b>'drumstick'</b> Primula (left) Primula <b>'Wanda'</b> (far left) Rewarding plants</p>
<p><b>SEA PINK or THRIFT</b></p> 	<p><i>Armeria</i></p>	<p>Full sun to light shade</p>	<p>6" to 12"</p>	<p>Spring, summer</p>	<p>White, pink, red, lilac</p>	<p>Globe-like clusters of tiny blossoms</p>	<p>Makes a wonderful groundcover.</p>

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SEDUM or STONECROP	<i>Sedum</i>	Full sun to partial shade	2" to 2'	Summer	White, pink, red, yellow, grey-blues	Fall bloom interest Many cultivars in both form and colour	<p>A tough ground cover with dense creeping mat, or upright, sturdy plants</p>
							
STRAWBERRY ORNAMENTAL	<i>Fragaria</i>	Sun to part shade	6" to 8"	Spring and summer	Baby pink	Tidy plant	
						<p><b>'Pink Panda'</b> shown here is one of a kind! Some variegated varieties The strawberries are real but the chipmunks and squirrels always steal them!</p>	

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<b>SUN ROSE or ROCK ROSE</b>	<i>Helianthemum</i>	Full sun to part shade	4" to 18"	Late spring to early summer	White, pink, red, orange, yellow	Hundreds of cultivars to choose from	A low-growing, spreading plant
							
<b>THYMES</b>	<i>Thymus</i>	Full sun to part shade	2" to 6"	Late spring to early fall	White, pink, lavender, purple also variegated	Can tolerate some foot traffic.	Beautiful ground-hugging covers Wooley Thyme at left - so soft you have to touch it!
							

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<b>VERONICA or SPEEDWELL</b>	<i>Veronica</i>	Full sun to part shade	8" to 30"	Throughout the summer	Many shades of blue or purple	Adds a touch of blue. Long-lasting bright display	<p align="center">Many cultivars, easy to grow, forming dense clumps or mats Deadhead to encourage re-blooming.</p>
							
<b>VINCA or PERIWIKLE</b>	<i>Vinca</i>	Full sun to deep shade	8" to 10"	Spring, sometimes fall	White , blue, purple	Useful for shaded areas Also a variegated leaf variety	<p>Can be slowly invasive, but if kept in check, it is an attractive ground-cover with deep green shiny leaves. Good counterpoint for colourful bloomers Variegated not as hardy</p>
							

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VIOLET PANSY or VIOLA	<i>Viola</i>	Full sun to deep shade	8" to 10"	Spring, summer	White, blue, violet, yellow	A short-lived perennial Dislikes heat.	Spring blooms for cool shady spots
							