

Kitsap Master Gardeners

What to Plant around (Not On) Septic Equipment, Tanks and Drain Fields

Because I know you really want to know what you can plant, here are some options.

Your environment will dictate what is best.

Use your Master Gardener Resources

Search WSU Hortsense:

search.wsu.edu/default.aspx?cx=004677039204386950923:xvo7gapmrrg&cof=FORID%3A11&q=landscaping+septic+drainfields&sa=Search

Schubs 2'–15' tall (if you have to use them)

- Buttercup Winterhazel
- Dwarf Currant
- Dwarf Flowering Almond
- Japanese Flowering Quince
- Japanese Spirea
- Mock Orange
- Red Choke Cherry
- Slender Deutzia
- Wintercreeper Euonymus

Herbaceous Annuals

- Ageratum or floss flower (*Ageratum houstonianum*)
- Begonia—Wax (*Begonia semperflorens*)
- Coleus (*Coleus* species)
- Geranium (*Pelargonium x hortorum*)
- Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus*)
- Marigold (*Tagetes patula*)
- Petunia (*Petunia x hybrida*)
- Salvia (*Salvia* species)
- Sweet Alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)

Herbaceous Perennials

- Armeria or Sea thrift (*Armeria maritima*)
- Astilbe (*Astilbe x arendsii*)
- Basket of Gold (*Aurinia saxatilis*) - can also be used as a ground cover
- Campanula or Bellflower (*Campanula* species)
- Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*)
- Coral Bell (*Heuchera sanguinea*)
- Cottage (and other) Pinks (*Dianthus* species)
- Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*)
- Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*)
- Snow-in-Summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*)

Ground Covers (all perennial)

Bunchberry (*Cornus Canadensis*)
Carpet Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*)
Hens and Chicks (*Sempervivum tectorum*)
Irish Moss or Scotch Moss (*Sagina subulata* syn. *Arenaria verna*)
Kinnickinnik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
Pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*) - shaded areas only
Stone Crop (*Sedum* species)
Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*)
Thyme (*Thymus* species)
Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*)

Wildflowers

Prairie Onion (*Allium stellatum*) - Not in Washington
Pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta*)
Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*)
Butterfly Weed (Not Bush – Class B Noxious) (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
Bigleaf Aster (*Aster macrophyllus*)
Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)
Prairie Clover (*Dalea* spp.)
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*)
Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
Wild Bergamont (*Monarda fistulosa*)
Penstemon (*Penstemon* spp.)
Pasqueflower (*Pulsatilla patens*)
Violets (*Viola* spp.)

Grasses

Sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)
Blue Fescue (*Festuca ovina* 'Glauc')
Blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*)
Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
Prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)
June Grass (*Koeleria macrantha*)

Trees 6'–25' Tall (if you have to use them)

English Hawthorn
European Filbert
Glossy Buckhorn
Japanese Flowering Crabapple
Nanking or Manchu Cherry
Sargent Crabapple
Siebold Viburnum
Willowleaf pear