City of Lincoln City

GUIDE TO LANDSCAPE SELECTIONS

Volume 1: Living Groundcover

Department of Planning & Community Development

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www.lincolncity.org
**TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL PLANTING**

**Soil Improvement**
Incorporate compost or other humus to planting area to establish fertile, well-drained soil.
Use mulches to retain moisture, reduce weeds and control temperature changes.

**Right Plant for the Right Place**
Use native species as they are ideal water-wise choices and are adapted to our local climatic conditions of rainy winters and windy dry summers.

**Cluster Planting**
Plant thickly with plant species to create a visual impact of color and texture. Clustered plants survive better, too.

**Microclimates**
Lincoln City has a multitude of microclimates—geographic areas impacted by terrain and climate conditions such as temperature, hours of sunlight, wind, salt and moisture content of the air, and rain characteristics, most of which are the effect of the proximity and intensity of ocean forces.

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**GROUND COVERS listed in this guide:**

- Ajuga* - Ajuga reptans
- Beach Aster* - Enigeron glaucus
- Blue Oat Grass - Helictotrichon sempervirens
- Blue Pacific Shore Juniper* - Juniperus conferta
- California Poppy - Eschscholzia californica
- Candy Tuft - Iberis sempervirens
- Ceanothus (Point Reyes)* - Ceanothus gloriosus
- Cotoneaster (rockspray) - Cotoneaster horizontalis
- Day Lily (many species) - Genus: Hemerocallis
- Dragoon's Blood Sedum* - Sedum spurium
- Dwarf Oregon Grape - Mahonia nervosa
- Heath & Heather* (many species) - Genuses: Erica & Calluna
- Ice Dance (Sedge) - Carex Morrowii
- Kinnikinnick* - Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
- Lady's Mantle - Alchemilla mollis
- Lithodora - Lithodora difusa
- Phlox* - Phlox subulata
- Purple Leaf Winter Creeper - Euonymous fortunei
- Salal* - Gaultheria shallon
- Santolina* - Santolina chamaeyparissus
- Sea Pink* - Armeria maritima
- Shasta Daisy - Leucanthemum × superbum
- Snow in Summer - Cerastium tomentosum
- Sweet Woodruff - Galium odoratum
- Trailing Rosemary* - Rosmarinus prostratus
- Wild Strawberry* - Fragaria chiloensis
- Wooly Thyme* - Thymus pseudolanguinosus

* most resistant to wind damage

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Plants in the guide are listed in alphabetical order. A summary of these plants’ growth and preferences is provided at the end of the guide.
Ajuga, aka Carpet bugle, is a herbaceous perennial that grows to a height of 2" to 8", often forming dense mats. The small flowers bloom in early spring and can be blue, pink, or white. Foliage color can vary from green to bronze to purple, with variegated varieties as well. It prefers sun to partial shade and moist soil with good drainage. **Wind tolerant.** Requires little maintenance. Native to Europe, can slowly spread and become invasive.

Beach Aster, aka Seaside Daisy and beach fleabane, is an evergreen perennial and a member of the daisy family. It reaches a height of 2" to 12". The flowers range in color from white to pink to violet and lavender with a yellow center. They bloom throughout the spring and summer. It does best in full sun and is both **salt and wind tolerant.** Requires little maintenance. Native species.

Blue Oat Grass is a perennial ornamental grass that grows in clumps about 24" to 36" tall. It is well liked for the blue-green color of its blades. Its feathery, tan and cream-colored blooms appear in late spring or early summer and can grow to 3’ tall. It prefers full sun to partial shade and does well in most well-drained soils. Requires little maintenance. Native to central and southwestern Europe.
Blue Pacific Shore Juniper is a conifer, evergreen, groundcover. It grows to about 12” tall and up to 6’ wide. It has blue-green foliage that can turn bronze-green in the winter. Blue berries can appear in the summer. It prefers full sun and well-drained soil, especially sandy soil. It is very wind and salt tolerant. It does great on bluffs or the beachfront. Native to Japan.

California Poppy is a hardy perennial that can vary in height from 2” to 24”. It has brilliant orange flowers that bloom from spring well into the summer. It is a hardy plant that is very drought-tolerant. It prefers light and sandy soils and requires full sun. Leaves can turn red in the fall. It requires little maintenance. Native species.

Candytuft is an evergreen groundcover that grows 8” to 12” tall. The leaves are needle-shaped and dark green. The white flowers, which cover the plant, bloom in late spring to early summer. Light pruning is recommended after blooming to stimulate growth, but otherwise, little maintenance is required. It likes direct sun and well-drained soils. Native to southern Europe.
Ceanothus

Point Reyes Ceanothus is a broadleaved, evergreen groundcover that grows 12” to 36” in height. The large clusters of small blue to purple flowers appear in the spring or early summer. It likes sand and sandy loam and is great for steep coastal banks. It prefers full sun. It is wind and salt tolerant. It requires little maintenance. Native to California Coast.

Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster is a layered and low-spreading deciduous plant that can grow from 6” to 24” tall. It has a fast growth rate and can spread as much as 10’ wide. Its white or pink flowers bloom in spring, with red berries appearing in the mid to late summer. Leaves can turn red in the fall. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Hardy plant that requires little maintenance. Native to Western China.

Day Lily

Day Lily is a perennial that can reach heights of 18” to 36”. It grows in clumps 18” to 24” wide and can divide easily. It has large, yellow-orange flowers that bloom mid-summer. It likes medium to light, well-drained soils. It prefers full sun to partial shade. It is easy to grow and requires little maintenance. Native to Asia, because it is able to spread, it is considered invasive by some.
Groundcover

Dragon’s Blood Sedum

One of many sedums that thrive on the Oregon coast, Dragon’s Blood Sedum is a succulent that reaches 6” tall. The leaves are medium to light green with red margins that become red with drought stress. The star-shaped red or pink flowers bloom in profusion during mid-summer. It thrives on poor to average soil with good drainage and is very wind and salt tolerant. It needs little care and tolerates dry conditions well. It likes full sun and is low maintenance. Native to the Caucasus region of Asia.

Dwarf Oregon Grape

Dwarf Oregon Grape is an evergreen that reaches 12” to 36” in height. It has yellow flower bunches in the spring, which turn into small, blue, edible berries in the summer that attract birds. It likes full sun or partial shade and is tolerant of poor soils. It can be used as a loose hedge and has a fast growth rate. It is easy to grow and requires little maintenance. It is the Oregon State flower. Native species.

Heath & Heather

Heath & Heather are evergreens that form cushions or mats of heights of 12” to 24” tall. Both species have very small, needle-like leaves that grow in whorls. There are many varieties that produce many different colored flowers at different times throughout the year. The flowers attract pollinators. They like sun and will tolerate many soil types so long as there is good drainage. They are salt and wind tolerant. Low maintenance. Native to central and SE Europe.
‘Ice Dance’ Sedge

One of many sedges that thrive on the Oregon Coast, Ice Dance is an evergreen sedge that grows to about 12” tall. As with most sedges, it is clump forming, with a moderate spreading habit. Its deep green grass-like blades are creamy-white along the edges. It likes well-drained soil with organic matter and does well in wet and shady conditions. It is easy to maintain and has a nice, clean look. Native to Japan.

Kinnikinnick

Kinnikinnick is an evergreen, leafy plant that grows 6” to 12” in height. It has a moderate growth rate, eventually creating a thick mat of vegetation. It has beautiful urn-shaped pink flowers in the spring that turn into red fruit later in the summer. Both the fruit and flowers attract wildlife. It does well in sandy soils and tolerates poor soil. It is salt and wind tolerant. Full to partial sun. It requires little maintenance. Native species.

Lady’s Mantle

Lady’s mantle is a perennial well known for the way water beads on its scalloped, green leaves. It grows to about 12” to 18” tall. It produces bunches of tiny yellow-green flowers that can remain throughout the summer. It does well in most well-drained soils. It prefers sun to partial shade and its clumps propagate easily. Low maintenance. Native to southern Europe.
Lithodora is a low-lying, evergreen groundcover and rock garden plant. Its small, star-shaped, brilliant blue flowers bloom from late spring through mid-summer. It is a fast-growing plant that likes full sun to partial shade. It does well in average, well-drained soils, preferring an acidic pH. Light pruning in late summer is most of what is required for maintenance. The foliage loses some of its color in the winter. Native to southern Europe.

Phlox is an evergreen perennial that grows to less than 4" to 12" tall. It has small, dark-green foliage and forms a dense mat of groundcover. The small flowers, which bloom from late spring to early summer, can vary in color depending on the species. Douglas Phlox, which is a hardy wind and salt tolerant phlox, has white, pink, or purple flowers. It prefers full sun to partial shade and well-drained, sandy soils. It requires little maintenance. Native species.

Purple Leaf Winter Creeper is a evergreen groundcover that reaches a height of 12" to 24" tall. Its green leaves turn burgundy in the fall and winter. It has a vigorous growth rate and a growth style similar to that of ivy, which makes it an excellent choice for erosion control. It likes full sun to partial shade and can handle a wide range of soils so long as they are well-drained. Native to east Asia.
Salal is a broad-leaved evergreen plant that grows less than 24” tall in full sun and poor soil and 48” plus in the shade with good soil. It has beautiful, urn-shaped white or pink flowers that bloom in the spring and black berries in the summer that attract birds. It likes acidic soils and is salt & wind tolerant. Prefers partial shade. It requires little maintenance. Good for erosion control. Native species.

Santolina is an evergreen plant that grows in thick, spreading mounds 12” to 24” high. Button-like yellow flowers bloom in June. Fruit is a brown pod that is not attractive. Prefers full sun and well-drained soil and is wind tolerant. Leaves are aromatic when crushed. Cultivated since at least 1596. Native to southern Europe.

Sea Pink is an evergreen groundcover, whose foliage appears almost grass or moss-like. It grows 4” to 6” in height and can spread to create a soft, thick mat. It has beautiful pink flowers that bloom in the spring. It does well as a border plant or in rock gardens. It likes sandy, well-drained soils. Prefers full sun. It is wind and salt tolerant. It requires little maintenance. Native species.
Shasta Daisy is a perennial that reaches 18” to 36” in height. The white flowers with a yellow center bloom from mid-summer up to mid-fall. Attractive to birds, bees, and other pollinators. It does best in full sun but tolerates partial shade. It requires little maintenance. The Shasta Daisy is a hybrid created by horticulturist Luther Burbank.

Snow in Summer is a perennial that reaches 6” to 12” in height. It has silvery, wooly foliage that creates a thick carpet of groundcover. In summer it blooms profusely with white, little flowers, from whom it gets its name. It does well in poor soil, so long as it is well drained. It prefers sun. It has a healthy growth rate and requires little maintenance but may be pruned after it blooms. Native to Europe and western Asia.

Sweet Woodruff is a perennial groundcover that reaches 6” to 12” in height. It is a fragrant plant that handles foot traffic well. Its clusters of tiny white flowers bloom in late spring to early summer. The plant loses its foliage in the winter, but retains the soil throughout the year due to the thick root mat it creates. It is an excellent shade plant that thrives in moist, well-drained soils. Native to Europe, west Asia, and north Africa.
Trailing Rosemary is an evergreen groundcover and a variety of the shrub well-known for its culinary and medicinal uses. It can reach a height of 6” to 24”. Its small, pale-blue flowers bloom profusely from early spring through summer. It likes full sun and soil with excellent drainage. Otherwise, it is a hardy, fast-growing groundcover that requires little maintenance. Native to the Mediterranean region.

Also known as beach strawberry, this is a low-lying, naturalized, evergreen groundcover. Sending out runners, it can spread indefinitely and provides good erosion control. It is hardy enough to handle mowing and foot traffic. The small white flowers that appear in early spring become small, delicious fruits in later spring and early summer. It likes well-drained soils and full sun to partial shade. It is **wind and salt tolerant** and requires little maintenance. Native species.

One of many varieties of thyme that thrive on the Oregon coast, Wooly Thyme is an evergreen groundcover that only grows to a height of 1” to 3”. The tiny gray-green leaves are covered with a soft, fuzzy hair. Tiny pink flowers bloom in July and August. Very fragrant leaves can be used as a culinary herb. Grows in sun to partial shade. It has a vigorous growth rate and is great for filling spaces, such as between pavers. Able to handle moderate foot traffic, it is a good alternative to turf grass. It is very **wind and salt tolerant** and requires little maintenance. Native to the Mediterranean.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In addition to the referenced sources below, the City would like to express its sincere appreciation to Robert “Scotty” Scotton for the time and energy he gave to providing the foundation of this project. His expertise and knowledge of coastal landscapes enriches us all.

As well, many, many thanks to Bear Valley Nursery, Blake’s Coastal Nursery, and Joanne Daschel for their gracious willingness to advise, correct and refine the information in this guide to ensure its accuracy and helpfulness to all who use it.

References:
- USDA Forest Service. (FEIS website)
- Oregon Flora Project
- Oregon State University Department of Agriculture
- Wikipedia.org
- Davesgarden.com and its contributors

This guide is a courtesy of:
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groundcover Plants</th>
<th>Wind &amp; Salt Tolerance</th>
<th>Height (within 3 yrs)</th>
<th>Spread/width (within 3 yrs)</th>
<th>Handling Foot Traffic</th>
<th>Sun Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ajuga - <em>Ajuga repens</em></td>
<td>High</td>
<td>2&quot;-6&quot;</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
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<td>Full sun to partial shade</td>
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<td>12&quot;-18&quot;</td>
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<td>Full sun</td>
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<td>Blue Oat Grass - <em>Helictotrichon sempervirens</em></td>
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<td>24&quot;-36&quot;</td>
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<td>Full sun to partial shade</td>
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<td>Blue Pacific Shore Juniper - <em>Juniperus conferta</em></td>
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<td>36&quot;</td>
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<td>Full sun</td>
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<td>2&quot;-24&quot;</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Full sun</td>
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<td>Candy Tuft - <em>Iberis sempervirens</em></td>
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<td>8&quot;-12&quot;</td>
<td>24&quot;</td>
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<td>Full sun</td>
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<td>Ceanothus (Point Reyes) - <em>Ceanothus gloriosus</em></td>
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<td>12&quot;-36&quot;</td>
<td>36&quot;</td>
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<td>Full sun</td>
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<td>Cotoneaster (Many species) - Genus: <em>Cotoneaster</em></td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>6&quot;-24&quot;</td>
<td>36&quot;-48&quot;</td>
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<td>Full sun to partial shade</td>
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<td>Day Lily (Many species) - Genus: <em>Hemerocallis</em></td>
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<td>24&quot;</td>
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<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Full sun</td>
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<td>Dwarf Oregon Grape - <em>Mahonia nervosa</em></td>
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<td>24&quot;-36&quot;</td>
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<td>Full sun to partial shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heath &amp; Heather (many species) - Genuses: <em>Erica &amp; Calluna</em></td>
<td>High</td>
<td>12&quot;-24&quot;</td>
<td>12&quot;-36&quot; (varies w/ variety)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Full sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Dance' Sedge - <em>Carex morrowii</em></td>
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<td>12&quot;-15&quot;</td>
<td>24&quot;</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Partial to full shade</td>
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<td>Kinnikinnick - <em>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</em></td>
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<td>6&quot;-12&quot;</td>
<td>36&quot;-48&quot;</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Full to partial sun</td>
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<td>18&quot;-24&quot;</td>
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<td>Lithodora - <em>Lithodora diffusa</em></td>
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<td>36&quot;-48&quot;</td>
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<td>Phlox - <em>Phlox subulata</em></td>
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<td>Purple Leaf Winter Creeper - <em>Euonymus fortunei</em></td>
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<td>36&quot;</td>
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<td>12&quot;-24&quot;</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Full sun</td>
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<td>Sea Pink - <em>Armeria caespitosa</em></td>
<td>High</td>
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<td>8&quot;-12&quot;</td>
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<td>Shasta Daisy - <em>Leucanthemom x superbm</em></td>
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<td>36&quot;</td>
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<td>Sweet Woodruff - <em>Galium odoratum</em></td>
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<td>Trailing Rosemary - <em>Rosmarinus prostratus</em></td>
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<td>30&quot;</td>
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