

During 37 years of operating a landscape nursery, Yvonne and I became familiar with the performance of a variety of plants in the Walla Walla Valley. Lessons learned; first, there is no 'perfect plant', and second, save yourself some frustration by '**selecting the right plant for the right spot**'. With hundreds of plant choices and new introductions each year, how do you select the right plant for the right spot? The following list of plants is not intended to be exhaustive nor exclusive. Over the years the plants listed on the accompanying page have proven to be reliable, low maintenance performers if planted in the correct location / exposure. Before selecting a plant you should ask three questions: Where? What? Why? These are the questions a landscaper or nursery personnel would ask to help you narrow your choices to a few plants that will be 'the right plant for the right spot'.

Where ?

Planting Site:

Exposure ? Sunny (Morning or Afternoon)? Shady ?

Location ? Facing North / South / East / West? (*Winter winds approach from the southwest ~a more severe exposure limits selection of plants*)

Area ? Size of area in which plant will be located ? How close to the house? Any windows (how high from ground to bottom of window)?

What ?

Type of Plant:

Tree ? Shrub ? Groundcover ? Annual or Perennial ?

Deciduous ? or Evergreen ? [*Broad-leafed (e.g. rhododendron, azalea) or needle-like (e.g. pine or spruce?)*] For year-round color best to have mix of evergreen and deciduous

Flowering / Color ? Seasonal interest (*spring, summer, fall*)

Size: Mature Height and Spread ? Values given in most plant references are not necessarily the mature size but what can be expected in a period of time. Remember:

Nothing stops growing unless it dies.

*Regular pruning is necessary to maintain a plant within a size range. Once-a-year pruning or less is **low maintenance**; twice-a-year pruning is **moderate maintenance**. Three-times-a-year or more is **high maintenance**.*

Why ?

Function:

Shade ? Aesthetics ? Accent plant ? Specimen Plant ? Color ? Screen (*wind or privacy*) ?
Groundcover ?