# Container Gardening Keystone Plants List

## 6.1 Boreal Cordillera

### White Yarrow
* (Achillea millefolium)*

- **LIGHT:** Full sun to partial sun
- **WATER:** Low
- **SEASON OF INTEREST:** Summer
- **HEIGHT:** 2-3 ft
- **DURATION:** Perennial
  
  This pleasantly aromatic plant produces flat clusters of white flowers that butterflies love. Cutting back can promote reflowering. It is deer and rabbit resistant, but is toxic to dogs, cats, and horses when ingested.

### Western Columbine
* (Aquilegia formosa)*

- **LIGHT:** Full sun to partial shade
- **WATER:** Low to average
- **SEASON OF INTEREST:** Late spring, early-mid spring
- **HEIGHT:** 1-3 ft
- **DURATION:** Perennial
  
  This showy, red flower is loved by hummingbirds and butterflies while being ignored by deer. Needs well draining soil. Dead-head to prevent seeding.

### Fireweed
* (Chamaenerion angustifolium)*

- **LIGHT:** Full sun to partial Sun
- **WATER:** Average
- **SEASON OF INTEREST:** Summer
- **HEIGHT:** 2-5 ft
- **DURATION:** Perennial
  
  A stunning plant with vibrant purple-pink flowers that attracts pollinators. Virtually pest and disease free. Spent flowerheads should be trimmed to prevent seeding.

### Coastal wallflower
* (Erysimum capitatum)*

- **LIGHT:** Full sun to partial sun
- **WATER:** Low to average
- **SEASON OF INTEREST:** Late spring though early spring
- **HEIGHT:** 1-2 ft
- **DURATION:** Annual, perennial
  
  This perennial produces yellow-orange flowers that are attractive to pollinators. Once established, Coastal Wallflower is drought tolerant.

### Oyster plant
* (Mertensia maritima)*

- **LIGHT:** Full sun to partial sun
- **WATER:** Average
- **SEASON OF INTEREST:** Late spring through mid summer
- **HEIGHT:** 4-6 in
- **DURATION:** Perennial
  
  This easy to grow plant produces many vibrant blue bell-shaped flowers from late spring to mid summer. It is generally disease free, but keep an eye out for slugs and snails.

### Alpine Forget-Me-Not
* (Myosotis asiatica)*

- **LIGHT:** Full sun
- **WATER:** Average
- **SEASON OF INTEREST:** Summer
- **HEIGHT:** 1-2 ft
- **DURATION:** Perennial
  
  A compact, showy perennial with clusters of small blue flowers. It is easy to care for and is resistant to most pests.
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Cascade Penstemon
(Penstemon serrulatus)
LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Average to high
SEASON OF INTEREST: Summer
HEIGHT: 1-2 ft
DURATION: Perennial
This plant is semi-evergreen with purple, trumpet-like, blossoms that are attractive to bees. Flowers should be deadheaded when spent to prevent seeding.

Shrubby Cinquefoil
(Potentilla fruticosa)
LIGHT: Full sun to partial sun
WATER: Average
SEASON OF INTEREST: Spring through fall
HEIGHT: 2-4 ft
DURATION: Perennial
This plant is a long blooming compact shrub with many bright yellow flowers. It is pest free, deer resistant, and can tolerate a wide range of soils as long as they are well draining. Old stems can be trimmed to make room for new growth.

Purple Mountain Saxifrage
(Saxifraga oppositifolia)
LIGHT: Partial sun
WATER: Low to average
SEASON OF INTEREST: All year
HEIGHT: 1-2 in
DURATION: Perennial
A beautiful low growing perennial that does well in pots. When flowering, it produces fuchsia flowers with orange anthers. The foliage is evergreen and forms a mat of dark green leaves.