

Discovery Garden Web Plant List Info

- **Plant List Coordinator:** The Master Discovery Garden (DG) Plant List is maintained and updated annually by the DG Plant List Coordinator (PLC), Sonja Nelson.
- **Location on the Web:** The master list will be posted on the public website <https://www.skagitmg.org/home/discovery-garden/> (look for the green Plant List button). A filtered, garden specific, list is available on the individual garden's web page.
- **Required Fields:** The following are the data fields that will be maintained in the master list: Garden Room; Garden Area (optional); #; Botanical Name; Cultivar; Tree, and Native. For the Tree and Native columns, an asterisk will indicate a positive response and the field will be left blank otherwise.
- **Definition of Tree:** For the tree column, we are using the Cornell University definition below as guidance, but it is ultimately up to the individual Garden Coordinators to decide for their garden
 - "Trees are woody, perennial plants that have one central stem, are generally more than 12 feet in height, and normally have a distinct head. Shrubs are woody, perennial plants that have a number of stems usually produced from near the soil line of the plant. Shrubs are generally less than 12 feet in height but some exceptions can reach 20 feet or more."
- **Definition of Native:** The definition of native will be per the USDA criteria found at <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=HYPER>
- **Nomenclature:** Penn State has a great guide called [Writing Plant Names](#). It covers the botanical naming conventions but also has a great section on common names. Here is some general guidance:

Plant List naming and typography conventions

Botanical name

Capitalize the first word, do not capitalize the second word; italicize both words

Examples:

Hydrangea macrophylla

Cornus florida

Do not italicize any descriptors such as x for hybrid or syn for synonym

Examples:

Penstemon x hybrid

Cornus sericea (syn. *C. stolonifera*)

Cultivar name

Capitalize all significant words (use Title Case); enclose the full cultivar name in single quotation marks

Examples:

'Pink Damask'

'Silver and Gold'

'Stella de Oro'

Common name

Common names are far less consistent, but we try to keep our list internally consistent to make searching and sorting easier. Some basic guidelines are below. If you're still not sure whether to hyphenate a word (for example) and you can't find an authoritative reference for the plant in question, search our list for similar plants and try to make yours consistent with what's already there

Do not capitalize any words unless they are proper nouns, such as a country name or a person's name

Examples:

dwarf barberry

weeping New Zealand sedge

Maggie Daley false spirea

Separate multiple common names with commas; do not use the word "or" (the comma makes sorting/search work better in the online list)

Example:

orange daylily, tawny daylily

NOT orange or tawny daylily

Do not use commas in common names except to separate multiple entries; put any descriptors in parentheses instead

Example:

yellow twig dogwood (variegated)

OR variegated yellow twig dogwood

NOT yellow twig dogwood, variegated

Directional words are not proper nouns and should not be capitalized

Example:

western swordfern

Compound nouns are usually hyphenated

Examples:

long-eared fern

dwarf re-blooming lilac