

Drought Tolerant Plants



With watering restrictions and hot, dry summers becoming a reality of life in our usually rainy Pacific Northwest climate, it would be wise to start adding some drought tolerant plants to your garden landscape. A water-wise-use landscape is known as a xeriscape. Xeriscaping can greatly reduce the time and money you spend in irrigating your garden.

A drought tolerant plant is defined as a plant that can perform without supplemental water for dry spells of up to 2-3 months. As a rule of thumb, drought tolerant plants typically have foliage which is small, leathery, grassy or succulent, or the leaves are grey or hairy.



A surprising number of plants are drought tolerant once established, but as with any other kind of plant, watering and protection are necessary for newly planted specimens. Many drought tolerant plants are also tolerant of poor to average soils which are free-draining, but it would be wise to add some organic matter to the soil to improve water retention when trying to establish the plant. Mulching to retain

moisture for new plantings is also helpful. And as with any other plant, drought tolerant specimens need to be planted in a proper location, whether sunny, shade or partial sun as the case may be.

Listed below are some suggested plants for starting your own attractive and water-efficient landscape:



Trees

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
Ginkgo Biloba	Ginkgo
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum

Shrubs and Ground Covers

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree
Berberis species	Barberry
Camellia sasanqua	Winter-blooming Camellia
Ceanothus species	Wild Lilac
Cotinus coggygria	Smoke tree
Cotoneaster species	Cotoneaster
Genista species	Broom
Hypericum species	St. Johnswort
Juniperus species	Juniper
Kerria japonica	Kerria
Mahonia species	Oregon Grape
Microbiota decussata	Russian Arborvitae
Phisocarpus species	Ninebark
Prunus lusitanica	Portugal Laurel
Rosa rugosa	Ramanas Rose
Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary
Syringia vulgaris	Common Lilac
Taxus species	Yew
Thymus species	Thyme
Yucca species	Yucca

Vines

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
Hedera Helix	English Ivy
Lonicera species	Honeysuckle
Wisteria species	Wisteria

Perennials

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
Achillea	Yarrow
Aquilegia	Columbine
Armeria	Thrift
Bergenia	Berginia
Cerastium	Snow-in-the-summer
Coreopsis	Coreopsis
Dianthus	Pinks
Digitalis	Foxglove
Echinacea	Coneflower
Euphorbia	Spurge
Gaillardia	Blanket flower
Geranium	Crane's bill
Gypsophila paniculata	Baby's Breath
Helleborus	Hellebore
Hemerocallis	Daylily
Iberis sempervirens	Candytuft
Lavandula	Lavender
Rudbeckia	Black-eyed Susan
Salvia	Sage
Sedum	Stonecrop
Sempervivum tectorum	Hens and Chicks

