

# INFORMATION

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## DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS

The plants listed below should fare above average in a hot, dry summer. As a rule of thumb, most plants with small, leathery, grassy or succulent leaves as well as those with grey or hairy leaves tend to tolerate drought conditions.

### TREES & SHRUBS


Aralia elata (Japanese angelica tree) B  
 Arbutus unedo (strawberry tree) B  
 Berberis, evergreen B  
 Betula (birch) B  
 Buddleja davidii (butterfly bush) A  
 Buxus (box) A  
 Caragana arborescens (pea tree) A  
 Caryopteris x clandonensis (blue spiraea) B  
 Chaenomeles (flowering quince) B  
 Ceanothus C  
 Choisya C   
 Cistus (sun rose) A, WD  
 Convulvulus cneorum A  
 Cordylina australis (cabbage tree) B  
 Cotoneaster B  
 Cytisus (broom) A, WD  
 Danae racemosa (Alexandrian laurel) B  
 Daphne mezereum (mezeroen, poisonous) B, WD  
 Elaeagnus A  
 Euonymus europaeus (spindle tree, poisonous) C  
 Euonymus fortunei C, WD  
 Fagus sylvatica (beech) A  
 Genista B, WD  
 Gleditsia triacanthos 'Sunburst' A, WD  
 Griselinia littoralis B  
 x Halimocistus A, WD  
 Hebe, small leaved C, WD  
 Helianthemum (rock rose) A, WD  
 Hibiscus syriacus C  
 Hippophae rhamnoides (sea buckthorn) B  
 Ilex (hollies) A  
 Jasminum nudiflorum (winter jasmin) C, WD  
 Juniperus B  
 Kerria japonica B  
 Lavandula (lavender) B  
 Lavatera (tree mallow) B  
 Ligustrum (privet) A  
 Lithodora B  
 Olearia (daisy bush) A, WD  
 Perovskia (Russian sage) A, WD  
 Philadelphus C  
 Phlomis fruticosa A, WD  
 Phlomis longifolia A, WD  
 Phormium C  
 Physocarpus C  
 Picea pungens 'Glauca' B  
 Pinus mugo (dwarf pine) A, WD  
 Pittosporum tenuifolium B, WD  
 Potentilla fruticosa C  
 Prunus laurocerasus 'Otto Luyken' & 'Zabeliana' A  
 Prunus subhirtella 'Autumnalis' C  
 Rhus typhina (stag's horn sumac) B, WD  
 Ribes sanguineum (flowering currant) C  
 Robinia pseudoacacia 'Frisia' B  
 Rosa glauca B  
 Rosa rugosa B  
 Rosemarinus officinalis B, WD  
 Ruscus aculeatus (butcher's broom) A  
 Ruta (rue, irritant) A, WD  
 Salvia officinalis (sage) B, WD  
 Santolina (cotton lavender) B, WD  
 Senecio 'Sunshine' A, WD  
 Sophora japonica (pagoda tree) B, WD  
 Spartium junceum (Spanish broom) A  
 Symphoricarpos (snowberry) A  
 Tamarix A  
 Taxus baccata (yew) A  
 Ulex europaeus (gorse) A  
 Vinca (periwinkle) A  
 Yucca gloriosa A, WD

### Getting Plants Established

Just because plants are drought resistant doesn't mean that they don't need watering while they are getting established.

- \* Give plants a good soaking before you put them in. If the root ball is very dry, submerge it in a bucket of water.
- \* On free-draining soils, mix in organic matter to improve water retention. Put the plant in the hole and water it in with the soil. Give a final watering after firming in to settle the roots.
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- \* On heavy soils, incorporate a mixture of organic matter and sharp sand or grit. This will open up the structure, improve water retention and reduce the chances of clay soils cracking during a dry summer.
- \* Apply a mulch or bark chippings eg. Westland, around the plant to help keep the soil cool, reduce surface evaporation and keep down competition from weeds and other plants. Keep the mulch or chippings away from the centre of the plant as this could lead to rotting in the winter.
- \* If you are planting a new garden or border, create sheltered areas using drought-resistant trees and shrubs. Cutting down the wind will significantly reduce the amount of water lost through the plant leaves and through evaporation from the soil.

### PERENNIALS

Acanthus (bear's breeches) C  
 Achillea B  
 Aconitum (monkshood, poisonous) B  
 Agapanthus B  
 Alcea rugosa (hollyhock) B  
 Alchemilla mollis B  
 Anthemis B, WD  
 Armeria (thrift) A, WD  
 Artemisia 'Powis Castle' A, WD  
 Arum italicum (poisonous) B  
 Aster ericoides B   
 Aquilegia C  
 Bergenia B  
 Brunnera macrophylla C  
 Campanula carpatica B  
 Campanula poscharskyana A  
 Catanache caerulea (cupid's dart) C  
 Cerastium tomentosum A  
 Coreopsis grandifolia B  
 Coreopsis verticillata B  
 Crambe cordifolia (ornamental sea kale) B  
 Crocus C  
 Dianthus (pinks) B  
 Dictamnus albus (burning bush) B  
 Digitalis purpurea (common foxglove) C  
 Echinacea purpurea (coneflower) A  
 Echinops ritro (globe thistle) A  
 Erodium (stork's bill) B  
 Eryngium maritimum (sea holly) A, WD  
 Erysimum (perennial wallflower) C  
 Euphorbia (irritant) B  
 Festuca glauca B  
 Foeniculum vulgare (fennel) A  
 Gaillardia A  
 Geranium 'Wargrave Pink' A  
 Geranium renardii A  
 Geranium sanguineum A  
 Geranium 'Spinners' A  
 Hemerocallis (day lily) C  
 Heuchera micrantha 'Palace Purple' C  
 Heuchera sanguinea C  
 x Heucherella alba C  
 Hosta, small leaved B  
 Iris foetidissima (stinking iris) A  
 Knautia B, WD  
 Kniphofia (red hot poker) B  
 Leucanthemum x superba (shasta daisy) C  
 Levisticum (lovage) B  
 Limonium latifolium (sea lavender) A  
 Linaria (toadflax) A  
 Linum narbonense A  
 Linium perenne (flax) A  
 Liriope muscari A  
 Macleaya cordata (plume poppy) B

### Perennials cont.

Malva moschata (musk mallow) B, WD  
 Muscari comosum 'Plumosum' A  
 Nepeta cataria (catmint) B, WD  
 Oenothera missouriensis B, WD  
 Ophiopogon jaburan 'Vittatus' B  
 Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens' B  
 Papavar orientale C  
 Penstemon pinifolius A, WD  
 Polygonatum biflorum C, WD  
 Pulmonaria B  
 Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm' B  
 Saxifraga x urbium (London Pride) A  
 Sedum spectabile A  
 Sedum telephium 'Atropurpureum' A  
 Sisyrrinchium striatum B  
 Stachys byzantina B  
 Symphytum grandiflorum B  
 Thalictrum aquilegifolium C  
 Verbascum thapsus B  
 Veronica perfoliata B  
 Viola 'Freckles' C  
 Waldsteinia ternata A



### Key

- A very drought tolerant once established
- B drought tolerant once established
- C moderately drought tolerant once established
- WD needs a well-drained soil

### ANNUALS

Cosmos bipinnatus B  
 Eschscholzia californica (California poppy) B  
 Gaillardia pulchella B  
 Gazania A, WD  
 Helichrysum bracteatum A  
 Heliopsis A  
 Mesembryanthemum (Livingstone daisy) A, WD  
 Tropaeolum majus (nasturtium) B

### CLIMBERS

Clematis montana B  
 Fallopia baldschuanica (Russian vine) A  
 Hedera (ivies) B  
 Parthenocissus (Virginia creeper & relatives) B  
 Rosa 'Sanders' White Rambler C  
 Vitis coignetiae B  
 Vitis vinifera 'Purpurea' B

### ROCK GARDEN PLANTS

Achillea tomentosa 'Aurea' B, WD  
 Armeria maritima 'Splendens' A, WD  
 Calceolaria biflora C, WD  
 Dianthus alpinus 'Alwoodii Group' B, WD  
 Dianthus 'Spring Beauty' B, WD  
 Erinus alpinus B, WD  
 Geranium 'Ballerina' A, WD  
 Helianthemum 'Ben More' A, WD  
 Leontopodium alpinum (edelweiss) B, WD  
 Phlox douglasii B

Information collated by Gardening Which?