

Perennials: Drought Tolerant Plant Selection Guide

Botanical Name	Common Name	Sun	Shade	Blossom Colour							Bloom Season	Soil	Height	Spread	Comments	
				W White	P Pink	R Red	O Orange	Y Yellow	B Blue	P Purple						
Catanache caerulea	Cupid's dart	X		X						X		Light well drained	60 cm	30 cm	Gray green leaves. Reseeds.	
Centaurea																
C. 'John Coutts'		X			X						summer		60 cm	45 cm	Bright pink, deadhead will rebloom.	
C. montana										X	Early summer		50 cm	60 cm	Regular division.	
C. pulcherimma					X								75 cm	60 cm	Regular division.	
Centranthus	Valerian	X	X	X							summer	Poor	60 cm-1m.	< 45 cm	Good with day lilies. Scented.	
C. 'Albus'				X												
C. rubra						X										
Ceratostigma	Plumbago									X	Late summer/fall				Brilliant blue flowers	
C. plumbaginoides	Dwarf plumbago									X			45 cm.	20 cm	Rapidly spreading.	
C. willmottianum	Chinese plumbago									X			75 cm	75 cm		
Convallaria majalis	Lily of the Valley			X									3-23cm		All parts poisonous if ingested.	
Coreopsis	Tickseed					X	X	X			summer					
C. verticillata 'Zagreb'								X					40-60 cm	30 cm	Thread leaf foliage.	
C. verticillata 'Moonbeam'																
C. lanceolata								X					45 cm	30 cm	Excellent cut flowers	
Crococsmia		X													Good naturaliser, watch height	
C. 'Lucerfi'							X						1 m	20-25 cm		
C. 'Bressingham Blaze'		X					X			X			75 cm			
Cynoglossum grande	Western Hound's Tongue (biennial)		X	X	X					X	X	Spring		60cm		Dies back in summer.
Deschampsia	Tufted Hair grass	X	X										30cm	30cm	Nice in wind.	
Diascia	Twinspur	X		X							Summer/Fall	Lean soil	45cm	1m	Survives in poor soil. Well drained soil.	
D. integerrima																
D. vigilis																
Doronicum	Leopard's Bane		X						X		Spring		75cm	60cm		
Dryopteris	Wood Fern		X									Rich soil.			Not easy to grow. Needs organic matter. Mulch required.	
D. arguta	Coastal Wood Fern		X										75 cm			
D. erythrosora			X										30-60 cm			
D. expansa			X										30 cm-1 m			
D filex mas			X										30cm-1m			
Echinacea purpurea	Coneflower	X		X	X						X	Summer		1m	1m	
Erica	Winter flowering Heather	X		X	X	X						Winter/Spring		30cm	30cm - 1m	Acid peaty soil. Add peat to soil before planting. Water well to get established--two years. Light haircut after flowering.

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Erigeron E. glaucus E. speciosus	Fleabane Beach Aster	X		X	X					X	X	Summer	Sandy			Flowers all summer. Free blooming.
Eryngium E. alpinum E. planum	Sea Holly	X								X	X	Summer				Silver, check height, tap root. Difficult to divide.
Erysimum E. 'Bowles Mauve' E. linifolium E. helveticum	Wallflower	X X X									X			1 m 30 cm 10 cm	2 m 20 cm 15 cm	Almost continuous bloom. Short lived, will self sow.
Euphorbia E. amygdaloides 'Purpurea' E. amygdaloides robbiae E. griffithii 'Fireglow' E. myrsinites E. polychroma E. rigida	 Myrtle Euphorbia Cushion Spurge	X X X	X X						X X			Spring Spring Early Summer Spring		1 m 45-60 cm 1 m 10 cm	1 m 60 cm 50 cm 20 cm	Tolerates root competition from tree. Lime green flowers. Spreads by rhizomes. Evergreen. Lime green flower
Fragaria chiloensis	Wild Strawberry	X	X	X										45 cm 30 cm	45 cm >1 m	Evergreen lime green flower Spreads by stolons
Geranium G. macrorrhizum G. x oxanonium G. phaeum	Cranes bill. Hardy geranium. Mourning Widow	X X X		X X	X X											Excellent choice. Easy Care. Free blooming. Tough, disease free.
Globularia G. bellidifolium G. latifolium 'Blue Cloud'	Globe Daisy German Statice	X X X		X						X	X	Summer Summer		8cm 20 cm 30 cm	20cm	Only moderately frost hardy. Good dried flowers.
Helenium autumnale H. Hybrids H. 'Bressingham Gold' H. 'Moerheim Beauty' H. 'Wyndley'	Sneezeweed	X X X X														Need regular division, hot spot, watch height of cultivars
Helianthemum nummularium Helictotrichon	Sun rose. Rock rose. Blue Oat Grass	X X		X	X	X	X	X				Early summer	Excellent drainage	15-20 cm 60cm	15-30 cm 60cm	Dry spot needed, evergreen. Stately blue green grass with florets. Do not cut back.

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Helleborus	Christmas Rose	X	X	X								Winter, Early Spring			Watch for black spot. DO NOT CHOOSE CHRISTMAS ROSE (NIGER).	
H. argutifolius		X	X												Pale green flowers.	
H. foetidus		X	X	X											Easiest to grow. Pale green flowers.	
H. orientalis																
Hemerocallis	Daylily	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		Summer			Easy care. Choose long blooming ones.	
H. 'Stella d'Oro'		X	X					X							Blooms summer to frost.	
H. 'Happy Returns'		X	X		X											
Hypericum	St. John's Wort															
H. calycinum		X	X					X				Poor	20-30 cm	> 2 m	Ground cover, can compete with tree roots, invasive.	
Hyssopus																
H. officinalis		X		X	X				X			Summer/Fall		60 cm	60 cm	Aromatic leaves.
Iris															Do not cover rhizomes.	
Bearded		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Summer		60cm-1m	All kinds of colour from near black to white, and blends too.	
I. tenax	Pacific Coast	X	X	X	X	X				X	X				Light shade.	
I. foetidissima	Gladwin Iris		X							X					Attractive seed heads.	
I. pallida		X								X		Summer		50cm	Variiegated leaves.	
I. Siberica	Siberian Iris	X		X						X	X	Late Spring		50cm	Robust and clump can get very big.	
Kniphofia uvaria	Red Hot Poker	X					X	X							Look for small cultivars.	
Lavandula	Lavender	X		X	X					X		Summer				
L. augustifolia 'Hidcote'		X								X		Summer		75 cm	75 cm	Gray foliage, evergreen.
L. augustifolia 'Munstead'		X								X		Summer		60 cm	60 cm	
L. x intermedia		X								X		Summer		75cm-1m	75cm	
L. stoechas	Spanish Lavender	X								X		Late Spr/summ		60 cm	60 cm	Rose purple bracts.
Liatris	Gayfeather	X		X						X		Late summer		60 cm	30 cm	Look for short cultivars.
L. spicata 'Kobold'		X														
Linum	Flax															
L. arboreum		X						X						30 cm	30 cm	Evergreen.
L. narbonense 'Six hills'									X					30 -60 cm	30 cm	Short lived.
L. perenne	Perennial flax								X					30 cm	15 cm	Self sows.
Lupinus	Lupine													75 cm	75 cm	Self seeds.
L. argenteus				X					X	X						
Lychnis																
L. coronaria		X	X	X		X						Summer		75 cm	45 cm	Gray foliage, self sows.
Maianthemum dilatatum	False Lily of theValley		X										Acid. Well drained.	10cm	>1m	Dies back in winter.

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Nepeta														
N. cataria	Catnip	X							X					
N. x faassenii	Catmint	X							X			45 cm	45 cm	
N. 'Dropmore Blue'		X							X			30 cm	60 cm	
Oenothera	Evening Primrose	X												
O. missouriensis								X				10 cm	15 cm	Flowers open at night.
O. tetragona	Sundrops							X			mid/late summer	45-60 cm	45 cm	Flowers open in daytime.
Papaver	Poppy													
P. orientale	Oriental poppy	X		X	X	X	X					1 m	1 m	Dies back midsummer
Pennisetum														
P. alopecuroides	Fountain grass	X										1 m	1m	Good winter display. White florets.
P. orientale	Chinese grass	X										45cm	60cm	White florets.
Penstemon	Beard Tongue	X												3-4 yrs life span, fast drainage.
Penstemon gloxinioides 'Sour Grapes'	Border or garden penstemon													Height & spread variable.
P. hartwegii														
P. cobaea														
Perovskia	Russian Sage	X							X			1 m	45 cm	Silver leaves.
P. 'Blue Spire'														
Polygonum	Knotweed													Creeping roots.
P. affine		X	X		X						Fall	15-30 cm	>30 cm	Evergreen.
Polystichum minutum	Sword fern		X									90cm	90cm	Established plants need little water. Stately.
Rudbeckia	Blackeyed Susan						X	X						Good cut flowers.
R. fulgida 'Goldsturm'								X				1 m	60 cm	
Ruta graveolens	Rue	X						X				75 cm	75 cm	Evergreen, blue-green foliage.
Salvia	Sage	X												
S. nemorosa 'East Friesland'									X			75 cm	45 cm	
S. nemorosa 'Lubecca'									X			45 cm	45 cm	
S. nemorosa 'May Night'									X			1 m	45 cm	Violet-blue flowers.
S. officinalis	Common sage									X				
S. 'Berggarten'														Non-flowering.
S. 'Icterina'														Yellow/green leaves.
S. 'Purpurascens'														Purple tinted leaves.
S. 'Tricolor'														Gray,white purple leaves.
Santolina	Lavender cotton													
S. chamaecyparissus		X						X				75 cm	1 m	Evergreen, gray, good small hedge.

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Saponaria	Soapwort	X											8 cm	10 cm	
S. caespitosa					X								15cm		Good edger.
S. ocyroides	Rock soapwort				X								2.5-8 cm	40 cm	Likes dry banks. Trailing.
S. officinalis 'Rubra Plena'						X							1 m	30 cm	
Sedum	Stonecrop	X	X												Succulent perennial, check hardiness.
S. acre 'Aureum'	Gold moss sedum							X					2.5 cm	>1 m	Spreads but easy to control.
S. lydium					X								5 cm	15 cm	Evergreen, mat-forming.
S. obtusatum		X	X					X					5 cm	10-15 cm	Evergreen, mat-forming.
S. sieboldii					X						Fall		10 cm	20 cm	
S. spectabile 'Brilliant'					X						Late summer/ Fall		30-45 cm	30-45 cm	
S. telephium 'Autumn Joy'											Late summer/ Fall		75 cm	60 cm	
S. spathulifolium		X	X					X			Early summer.		5 cm	>1 m	Evergreen, mat-forming.
Sempervivum	Hens & chicks.	X	X										5cm		Evergreen-spreads slowly, to make dense mats.
S. arachnoideum	Cobweb house leek												5 cm	10 cm	Fine hairs over plant.
S.tectorum	Hens & chicks												5 cm	20 cm	Look for red/green colours.
Senecio															
S. cineraria	Dusty Miller							X					60 cm	60-75 cm	Grey foliage.
Sisyrinchium															
S. bellum	Blue-eyed grass	X							X				12 cm	10 cm	Semi-evergreen, self seeds.
S. striatum		X		X				X					45 -60 cm	30 cm	Self seeds. Long lasting flowers.
Stachys	Lamb's Ears	X	X	X	X								15 cm	60 cm	Soft grey leaves.
S. byzantina 'Silver carpet'													5 cm	60 cm	Does not produce flowers.
Thymus	Thyme														
T. citriodorus	Lemon Thyme	X	X										19 cn	25 cn	Evergreen.
T. herba-barona	Caraway-scented	X	X							X			5-10 cm	20 cm	Evergreen.
T. praecox arcticus	Creeping Thyme	X	X	X						X			1 cm	>	Evergreen.
T. pseudolanuginosus	Woolly Thyme	X	X		X								2.5-5 cm	>20 cm	Evergreen.
T. vulgaris	Common Thyme	X	X										15-30 cm	25 cm	Evergreen.
T. vulgaris argenteus	Silver Thyme	X	X										15-30 cm	25 cm	Variagated leaves, evergreen.
Valeriana	Valerian, garden heliotrope														
V. officinalis				X	X								1 m	1 m	

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Vancouveria															
V. chrysantha			X					X			Spring		30 cm	>1m	Evergreen, grow in shade under trees.
V. hexandra	American barrenwort		X	X									20 cm	>1m	Vigorous evergreen, grown in shade under trees.
Verbascum															
V. chaixii	Nettle leaf mullein.	X						X					1 m	60 cm	Silvery hairs.
V. nigrum	Dark mullein							X		X	Late summer/fall		60 cm - 1 m	60 cm	
Verbena															
V. bipinnatifida										X			20 cm	20 cm	Self sows.
V. rigida	Vervain				X				X	X			45 – 60 cm	30 cm	Low maintenance.
Veronica															
V. prostrata	Speedwell Prostrate speedwell	X								X			30 cm	>1m	
Vinca															
V. major	Periwinkle		X							X			10 cm	>	Will aggressively spread over time. Variegated foliage available.
V. minor	Dwarf Periwinkle			X						X	X		15 cm	>	Variegated foliage available. More restrained than major.
Yucca															
Y. filamentosa		X		X									75 cm	75 cm	Stiffer, narrower leaves than flaccida..
Y. flaccida		X		X									75 cm	75 cm	Hardest small yucca.

Native Plants: Drought Tolerant Perennials Plant Selection Guide

Botanical Name	Common Name	Sun	Shade	Blossom Colour							Bloom Season	Soil	Height	Spread	Comments	
				W	P	R	O	Y	B	P						
				White	Pink	Red	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Purple						
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> A. 'Moonshine'	Yarrow	X		X								Summer/Fall		30-50cm		
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly everlasting	X	Pt. X	X				X				Summer		20-60cm		Used in dried flower arrangements.
<i>Antennaria microphylla</i>	Rosy pussy toes	X			X							Summer/Fall		Up to 40cm		
<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	Red Columbine	X	Pt. .X			X		X				May, Aug		40-60cm		Should be in partial shade or shade. Cannot get too dry.
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinnikinnick (Bear berry)		X	X	X							Summer		10cm		Partial Shade. Excellent ground cover.
<i>Aster alpinus</i>	Alpine aster	X								X		Summer		30cm		
<i>Dryas drummondii</i>	Yellow Mountain Avens	X						X				Summer		15-25cm		Low prostrate evergreen shrub.
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Idaho fescue bluegrass	X												10-20cm		
<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Coastal Strawberry	X		X								Summer		30cm		Evergreen. Flowers nectar source for butterflies.
<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	Twinflower	X	X		X							Summer	Humous	10cm		Evergreen. Good scent.
<i>Lomatium ulriculatum</i>	Fine Leafed Desert Parsley	X						X				Spring		30cm		Food for caterpillars for some adult butterflies.
<i>Lychnis coronia</i>	Rose campion	X	Pt. X			X						Summer		40-100cm		Self seed prolifically.
<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	Dull Oregon Grape		X					X				Apr/June		60cm		Edible but sour berries. Difficult to find.
<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	Wood Rose	X														
<i>Sedum spatulifolium</i>	Stoncrop	X												5cm		Rosettes of blue/green leaves.
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Moss campion	X			X	X						June/Sept		5cm		Spreads easily. Trouble free.
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Golden rod	X						X				Late summer		1m		
<i>Symphoricarpos</i>	Snowberry	X	X	X								Spring				Only the following cultivars. Nice white berries in winter. Needs pruning.
<i>S. chenaultii</i> 'Hancock'			X											1m	3m	
<i>S. mollis</i>	Creeping Snowberry	X												60cm	2m	
<i>Triteleia hyacinthina</i>	Fool's onion	X		X				X						50-60cm		Cormous perennial. No on ion smell.

SHRUBS: Drought Tolerant Shrubs Plant Selection Guide

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				W	P	R	O	Y	B	P						
				White	Pink	Red	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Purple						
Arbutus unedo A. 'Elfin King' A. 'October Fest'	Strawberry Tree	X		X								Well drained	3-4.5m		Evergreen fruit. Rich red brown bark. (NOT FOR BOULEVARDS)	
Buxus sempervirens	Box	X	X												Evergreen. Very slow growing. Can make small formal hedges.	
Caryopteris x clandonensis 'Blue Mist'	Bluebeard	X								X		Late Summer		60cm	60cm	
Ceanothus C. 'Victoria Blue' C. Gloriosus	Wild Lilac California Lilac Point Reyes creeper	X								X		Summer				Many succumb to root rot. Watch zone hardiness, height. Only cultivars mentioned.
Cistus	Rockrose	X		X	X							Light soil.	1m	1m	Needs maintenance. Watch height and spread. Do not prune into hard wood.	
Cotoneaster C. dammeri C. horizontalis		X											20cm	20cm	Berries, evergreen.	
Erica	Winter flowering Heather	X		X	X	X						Winter/Spring		30cm	30cm - 1m	Acid peaty soil. Add peat to soil before planting. Water well to get established--two years. Light haircut after flowering.
Euonymus fortunei E. 'Silver & gold'		X	X													Evergreen. Variegated forms. Prune hard. Many other low growing cultivars available.
Euphorbia characias 'Wulfenii'		X										Spring		1m	1m	Exotic look. Lime green flowers.
Fuschia species F. 'Magellanica' F. 'Shapitor'		X	X	X	X	X						Summer		1m	1m	Attracts Hummingbirds. Pick only hardy species.
Hypericum H. balcaricum H. kouytchense	St. John Wort								X			Summer				Only the following cultivars. No creeping St. John's Wort.
Ilex crenata	Japanese holly. Japanese box.	X	X											1m	1m	Evergreen.
Lavandula L. angustifolia 'Hidcote' L. angustifolia 'Munstead' L. stoechas	Lavender	X										Summer		1m	1m	Gray foliage, evergreen.
Lonicera 'nitida'														1m	2m	Sprawls. Needs to be pruned. Easily controlled by pruning.

