

Drought Tolerant Plants

The Rogue Valley has a climate perfectly suited to drought tolerant plants. With so many beautiful varieties, and with water becoming a precious commodity, there is ample reason to incorporate them into your landscape or garden. As an added bonus, many drought tolerant plants are also deer resistant.

Caring for Drought Tolerant Plants

The main thing to remember about drought tolerant plants is that they usually require good drainage. Plant them high, incorporate ¼" gravel or compost to your planting bed, but don't add mulch too close to their crowns. A gravel mulch works well.

The easiest way to make drought tolerant plants unhappy is to overwater them. Most drought resistant plants need adequate water their first summer, but once established a deep soak every few weeks is best. Drought tolerant plants should not be combined with other, water loving plants on an irrigation system or a lawn sprinkler. They need to be on a separate timer or emitter that delivers the correct amount of water. Try dedicating an entire area to drought tolerant plants. You will love the result.

Remember, these are general rules. Please ask if you have questions about the care of a specific plant.

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Botanical Name	Common Name	Comments
FERNS		
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Deer Fern	native, evergreen
<i>Cyrtomium fortunei</i>	Hardy Holly Fern	evergreen, glossy bold foliage
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Western Sword Fern	native, evergreen
GRASSES AND GRASS-LIKE PLANTS		
<i>Agave neomexicana</i>	Hardy Agave	bold accent, evergreen, spiny
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem	
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Blue Grama Grass	mounding green foliage, unique flag-like persistent seed-heads
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas Grass	
<i>Dasyilirion wheeleri</i>	Common Sotol	toothed, blue yucca-like foliage, giant bloom spikes when mature
<i>Festuca spp.</i>	Fescue	small evergreen, silver-blue color
<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>	Blue Oat Grass	evergreen, easy maintenance
<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>	Red Yucca (False Yucca)	coral flowers, hummingbird magnet, yucca-like foliage
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Pink Muhly Grass	haze of pink seed heads in fall, persist through winter
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deer Grass	CA native, spikey golden seed-heads, semi-evergreen
<i>Nasella tenuissima</i>	Mexican feather grass	will naturalize (aggressive re-seeder), great erosion control
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switch Grass	dainty seed heads, nice fall color
<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides or orientale</i>	Fountain Grass	showy seed-heads

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Phormium spp.	New Zealand Flax	bold colorful foliage, can be marginal - put in protected locations
Reineckia carnea	Chinese Reineckia	dry shade, orchid-like pink blooms in fall, slowly colonizing by rhizome
Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Bluestem	prairie native, great fall color
Sisyrinchium spp.	Blue-Eyed Grass	many native species, iris relative, long blooming, cute, can re-seed
Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie Dropseed	
Stipa gigantea	Giant Feather Grass	seed heads glow when backlit, semi-evergreen
Yucca filamentosa	Adam's Needle	curly fibers along blades
PERENNIALS		
Acanthus spp.	Bears Breech	once established, fleshy roots, tall flower spikes
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	fine texture, many flower colors
Agastache spp. and hybrids	Anise Hyssop, Licorice Mint	fragrant, hummingbird magnet, long bloom
Ajuga		
Allium spp	Ornamental Onions	globe shaped blooms in spring-summer, like dry summer soils
Aquilegia formosa	Western Columbine	PNW native, red-yellow blooms attract hummingbirds
Antennaria dioica 'Rubra'	Pink Pussy Toes	
Anthemis 'Susana Mitchell'	Margarite Daisy	silver foliage, creamy daisies all season, evergreen
Arenaria spp.	Sandwort	
Armeria maritima	Sea thrift	clumping grass, pink flowers
Artemisia spp.	Wormwood	silver foliage, fine texture, aromatic
Asarum caudatum	Wild Ginger	dry shade
Asclepias spp. - esp. A. fascicularis	Milkweed	Monarch host plant!
Baptisia australis	Blue False Indigo	deep blue/purple flowers, prairie native, long lived
Bergenia cordifolia	Heartleaf Bergenia	large, glossy leaves, semi-evergreen, dry part sun-shade
Callihroe involucrata	Wine Cups/Poppy Mallow	US native, trailing wildflower, magenta blooms all summer
Campanula poscharskyana	Creeping Siberian Bellflower	long bloom time, semi-evergreen
Catanache caerulea	Cupid's Dart	short lived, long blooming, great cut flowers and everlasting, can re-seed
Centaurea simplicicaulis	Knapweed	silver foliage, pale pink flowers
Ceratostigma plumbaginoides	Hardy Dwarf Plumbago	cobalt blue flowers late summer-fall, deep red fall color
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow in Summer	

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Coreopsis spp.	Tickseed	long bloomers, fine texture
Crocsmia	Crocsmia	
Delosperma spp.	Ice Plant	many species, varieties and colors! long bloom times
Dianthus varities	Carnations or Pinks	
Dicentra formosa	Native Bleeding Heart	dry shade
Digitalis obscura	Sunset Foxglove (perennial)	from mtns of Spain, sun loving, rusty apricot blooms
Echinacea purpurea	Coneflower	
Echinops	Globe Thistle	good cut flower
Epimedium spp.	Bishop's Hat/Barrenwort	dry shade
Erigeron k. 'Profusion'	Fleabane/Santa Barbara Daisy	super long bloomer, can reseed
Erigeron pulchellus 'Lynhaven Carpet'	Robin's Plantain	dry shade, large leaf mat-forming, charming daisies
Eriogonum umbellatum	Sulphur Flowered Buckwheat	native to rocky sites, evergreen, long bloom
Erodium varities	Heron'sbill	likes good drainage, long blooming
Eriophyllum lanatum	Oregon Sunshine	native, platinum foliage, yellow daisies
Eryngium spp.	Sea Holly	long lasting flowers dry well, tap root
Euphorbia spp.	Spurge	long lasting chartreuse flowers in spring, many evergreen
Fragraria chiloensis and F. vesca	Wild Strawberry	native ground cover, more droughty w/some shade
Gazania linearis	African Daisy/Treasure Flower	long blooming, can re-seed in gravel
Gaillardia aristata	Blanket Flower	long bloom time
Gaura lindheimeri	Gaura/Appleblossom Grass	tap root, ALL-season bloom
Geranium spp	Hardy Geranium/Cranesbill	certain species, many w/scented foliage, some semi-evergreen
Glaucium flavum	Horned Poppy	re-seeding short lived perennial, amazing blue foliage
Glumicalyx goseloides	Nodding Chocolate Flower	evergreen, pumpkin orange fragrant flowers
Gypsophila spp.	Baby's Breath	
Helianthemum numularium	Sunrose	spring bloom, evergreen
Helleborus spp.	Lenten/Christmas Rose	dry shade
Hemerocallis spp.	Daylily	
Heuchera spp.	Coral Bells	dry part sun-shade, great foliage colors, draws hummers
Hypericum calycinum	St. John's Wort	very aggressive groundcover, more droughty in shade
Iris spp. (I. x germanica, I. PCI hybrids, I. pallida, I. tenax)	Iris	some native species, many flower colors, tough!
Kniphofia spp.	Red hot poker	hummingbird attractor
Lamium maculatum, Lamiastrum	Dead nettle	dry shade groundcover

Botanical Name	Common Name	Comments
'Herman's Pride'		
Lewisia cotyledon	Lewisia, Cliff Maiden	good drainage, part sun, showy long blooms, succulent
Liatris punctata	Dotted Blazing Star, Gayfeather	the most xeric species, important pollinator plant
Limonium latifolium	Hardy Staice, Sea Lavender	papery lavender umbels dry beautifully
Marrubium rotundifolium	Silverheels Horehound	cute groundcover w/silvery mouse-ear like foliage
Monardella m. 'Marrian Sampson'	Scarlet Hummingbird Mint	SW native, dry part sun, showy blooms
Monardella odoratissima	Mountain Pennyroyal, Coyote Mint	native evergreen, long blooming, attracts pollinators, adaptable
Narcissus	Daffodil	
Nepeta spp.	Catmint	super long bloom, attracts pollinators
Oenothera spp.	Evening Primrose	long blooming, can re-seed, many species
Origanum spp.	Oregano	for cooking, as a groundcover or showy ornamental types
Opuntia cacanapa 'Ellisiana'	Spineless Prickly Pear Cactus	hardy, yellow flowers, edible fruits/pads, awesome!
Penstemon spp.	Beardtongue	attracts pollinators/hummers
Perovskia atriplicifolia	Russian Blue Sage	late summer blooms, aromatic
Phlomis spp.	Jerusalem Sage	large, fuzzy leaves, whorls of flowers yellow to pink/purple
Phlox subulata	Creeping Phlox	
Pterocephalus depressus	Moroccan Pincushion Flower	mat/cushion forming evergreen, mauve flowers w/poofy seedheads
Pulsatilla vulgaris	Pasque flower	
Rubus calycioides	Creeping Bramble	more drought tolerant in shade
Salvia spp. and hybrids	Sage	so many...where do we start!
Salvia pachyphylla	Mojave Sage	platinum silver evergreen foliage, purple flowers w/rosy bracts
Santolina spp.	Lavender Cotton/Green Santolina	evergreen, yellow button flowers, aromatic
Sedum spp. (Hylotelephium)	Stonecrop	succulents - so many species/varieties...
Sempervivum spp.	Hen and Chicks/Houseleek	colonizing succulent
Scutellaria spp.	Skullcap	many long blooming western/plains natives
Silene uniflora 'Druett's Variegated'	Rock Campion	cute groundcover/trailer, white cup-shaped flowers
Teucrium chamaedrys	Trailing Germander	evergreen groundcovers/shrublets, mauve flowers mid-summer, bees!
Thymus spp.	Thyme	
Verbascum spp.	Mullein	long blooming

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Veronica spp. (esp. V. pectinata)	Speedwell	white to blue flowers, evergreen groundcovers
Vinca minor	Vinca	dry shade
Zauschneria spp.	California Fuschia	late summer coral flowers, humming magnet
SHRUBS		
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree	white flowers, fuzzy red berries
Arctostaphylos spp.	Manzanita	evergreen, handsome bark, late winter flowers attract pollinators
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Kinnickinnick	evergreen groundcover
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote bush	evergreen, tough as nails CA native, great wildlife plant
Berberis spp.	Barberry varieties	great purple leaves
Bupleurum fruticosum	Shrubby Hare's Ear	Late summer blooms, evergreen
Buddleia - sterile hybrids	Butterfly Bush	honey scented flowers all summer
Caesalpinia gilliesii	Desert Bird of Paradise	feathery and tropical, red/yellow spidery blooms, protected location
Callistemon spp.	Hardy Bottlebrush (only alpine species for our valley)	from Australia, choose cold hardy varieties
Carpenteria californica	Tree Anemone	must have good drainage and winter protection
Caryopteris clandonensis	Blue Mist	periwinkle flowers mid- late summer
Ceanothus spp.	California Lilac	cobalt flowers in early spring
Cephalotaxus harringtonia	Japanese Plum Yew	evergreen, coarse foliage, dry shade, columnar & spreading forms
Cercocarpus spp.	Mountain Mahogany	native, good in wilder areas
Choisya ternata 'Aztec Pearl'	Aztec Pearl Cutleaf Mexican Orange	fragrant white flowers in spring, evergreen, full to part sun
Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus/nauseosa	Rabbitbrush	western native, yellow flowers in fall, important pollinator plant
Cistus spp.	Rockrose	early summer blooms
Cotinus spp.	Royal Purple Smoke bush	burgundy foliage, red fall color
Cotoneaster spp.	Cotoneaster	white flowers, red berries
Daphne spp.	Daphne	fragrant blooms
Elaeagnus spp.	Silverberry	evergreen, winter bloom, great for hedges
Eriogonum compositum	Arrowleaf Buckwheat	native, evergreen, attracts pollinators
Fallugia paradoxa	Apache plume	semi-evergreen, southwest native, long bloom, showy seedheads
Fatshedera lizei	Tree Ivy	upright growing evergreen, dry shade
Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple Guava	silver foliage, tropical pink flowers
Fremontedendron californica	Flannel Bush	CA native, large yellow flowers late spring, felted evergreen foliage

Botanical Name	Common Name	Comments
Garrya spp.	Silktassel	native, long catkins in winter
Genista spp.	Yellow Broom groundcover	deep yellow flowers in spring
Grevillea junipera	Juniper Grevillea	Australian plant, choose cold hardy varieties
Halimium/Halimocistus spp.	Rockrose	
Hebe spp.	Hebe	only certain species are hardy, best with afternoon shade, summer blooms
Holodiscus discolor	Oceanspray	native, important pollinator plant
Hydrangea quercifolia	Oakleaf Hydrangea	US native, panicle type, burg./red fall color, peeling bark
Ilex vomitoria	Yaupon Holly	SE native
Juniperus spp.	Juniper	
Lavandula ssp.	Lavender	fragrant purple flowers
Leptospermum namadgiensis and L. humifusum	Hardy (Alpine) Tea Tree	alpine Australians, evergreen, red stems on new growth, great texture
Lonicera nitida	Box Honeysuckle	semi-evergreen shrub, fountain-like habit, many varieties
Mahonia spp.	Oregon Grape	native, yellow flowers in late winter, blue berries, upright/creeping species, tough!
Myrtus communis 'Compacta' or 'Tarentina'	Myrtle	aromatic evergreen, starchy white flowers, protected locations are best
Nandina domestica	Heavenly Bamboo	super common evergreen, tough, red winter color/berries, many forms
Nerium oleander	Oleander	blooms all summer, marginally hardy, highly toxic
Osmanthus heterophyllus	Hollyleaf Osmanthus	fragrant winter blooms, evergreen, many varieties
Ozothamnus spp.	Ozothamnus	great eversilver foliage, reddish buds open to white flowers
Philadelphus lewisii	Native Mock Orange	native, fragrant
Picea abies nidiformis	Birds Nest Spruce	does best with afternoon shade
Pinus mugo	Mugo Pine	
Potentilla	Potentilla	regular water until established
Punica granatum	Punica granatum	hummingbird magnet, showy flowers/fruits, yellow fall color
Pyracantha spp.	Firethorn	old fashioned, showy berries, can be espaliered or large scale bonsai
Rhamnus californica and R. tomentella	CA/Hoary Coffeeberry	native, evergreen, showy berries
Rhamnus frangula	Buckthorn	tough Euro native, berries, gold fall color, good texture
Rhus spp.	Sumac	amazing orange-red fall color, colonizing habit, many native species
Ribes aureum	Golden Currant	native, prefers afternoon shade

Botanical Name	Common Name	Comments
Ribes sanguineum	Red Flowering Currant	native, prefers afternoon shade
Rosa spp.	Roses	many tough species like Rugosas, colorful rose-hips
Rosemarinus officianalis	Rosemary	fragrant, attracts beneficial insects
Rubus calycinoides	Bramble	vigorous, salmon colored berries
Symphoricarpos alba	Snow Berry	native, white berries, dry shade is best
Teucrium fruticans	Bushy germander	silver evergreen foliage with bright blue flowers
Viburnum davidii	Viburnum davidii	dry shade
Viburnum t. 'Spring Bouquet'	Viburnum tinus 'Spring Bouquet'	
Vitex agnus-castus	Chaste tree or bush	interesting leaves and lavender flowers
TREES		
Abies concolor and A.pinsapo	White Fir and Spanish Fir	most heat/sun tolerant Firs, silvery blue-foliage on some selections, great texture
Acer ginnala	Amur Maple	orange-red fall color
Acer circinatum	Vine Maple	*only with afternoon shade
Acer freemanii 'Autumn Blaze'	Autumn Blaze Maple	red fall color
Acer grandidentatum	Bigtooth Maple	native to the Rockies, good intermediate size
Calocedrus decurrens	Incense Cedar	native
Carpinus 'Emerald Avenue'	Emerald Avenue Hornbeam	narrow-oval form, selected for heat tolerance and vigor
Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'	Blue Atlas Cedar	nice contrasting foliage color(silver blue)
Cedrus deodara	Deodar Cedar	
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	dark pink flowers in spring, must have good drainage
Cercis c. texensis 'Oklahoma'/'Alba'	Oklahoma Redbud	most heat tolerant subspecies, glossy foliage, yellow fall color, looks good late in the season
Chamaerops humilis	Mediterranean Fan Palm	tropical look
Chilopsis linearis	Desert Willow	magenta blooms all summer, attracts pollinators
Chitalpa tashkentensis	Chitalpa (cross of Catalpa and Chilopsis)	large blooms all summer
Cotinus spp.	Smoke tree	small tree, great fall color
Crataegus spp.	Hawthorn	spring flowers, berries, beloved by birds
Cupressus arizonica 'Blue Ice'	Arizona Cypress	bright silver-blue foliage
Cupressus bakeri	Baker Cypress	endemic to Siskiyou, blue-green color, serpentine soils
Cupressus s. 'Glauca'	Blue Italian Cypress	
Eucalyptus spp	Snow gum, Cider gum, Black Sally, willowleaf Peppermint	evergreen, showy bark, colorful stems

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Ficus varieties	Fig tree	fruiting, big leaves
Gleditsia triacanthos	Honeylocust	yellowish fall color
Juniperus varieties	Juniper	tough as nails
Lagerstoemia varieties	Crape Myrtle varieties	late summer bloom, fall color
Maackia amurensis	Amur Maackia	super tough small tree, nitrogen fixer
Morus alba	Fruitless Mulberry	fast growing shade tree
Olea europea 'Arbequina'	Olive	evergreen, fast growing (hardest variety)
Picea pungens glauca	Colorado Blue Spruce	silvery-blue needles
Pinus spp.	Pine species	
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache	orange-red fall color
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	native
Quercus coccinea	Scarlet Oak	deep red fall color
Quercus rubra	Red Oak	
Sequoiadendron giganteum	Giant Sequoia	fast growing conifer, occ. deep soaks
Syringa reticulata, pekinensis	Japanese/Chinese Tree Lilac	white flowers early summer, showy bark
Thuja plicata	Western Red Cedar	native, needs afternoon shade
Trachycarpus fortunei	Windmill Fan Palm	tropical look
Zelkova serrata	Zelkova	fast growing shade tree, gold to rusty orange fall color
Ziziphus jujuba	Jujube (Chinese Date)	glossy foliage, thorns, edible fruit
VINES		
Campsis radicans	Trumpet Vine	vigorous, orange-red flowers
Humulus lupulus	Hops	used in beer making
Lonicera spp.	Honeysuckle	vigorous, often fragrant, long blooming flowers, many semi-evergreen
Rosa (climbing)	Climbing Rose varieties	vigorous, long bloom
Vitis spp.	Grape vine, fruiting and ornamental	very vigorous, red fall color
Wisteria spp.	Wisteria	fragrant purple flowers, super vigorous