

## Choosing Hardy Shrubs For Redding

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**Q. I am converting my lawn over to a more drought tolerant landscape and am wondering if you can recommend some hardy, drought tolerant shrubs that can be grown successfully in Redding?**

**A.** In Redding, a plant's ability to withstand the extreme heat we experience each summer can be of greater concern than its tolerance to winter cold. When choosing a plant for its ability to withstand the cold look for the USDA Plant Hardiness zone range in the plant description. Redding is in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 9a or in some outlying areas 8b, and a wide variety of trees and shrubs will grow well in that zone. You will also want to make sure that it can take the heat, many plants have a heat zone rating. The heat zone ratings can be found in the Heat Zone map supplied by the American Horticulture Society. Redding is a zone 9 on this map. We recommend choosing trees and shrubs that are drought resistant and suitable in size and habit to the area you're planting so they don't require constant pruning and watering. The California Native Plant Society posts lists of drought-tolerant trees and shrubs on its website (<http://www.shastacnps.org>) along with a "Calendar of Color" that describes varieties that bloom in each month of the year. Another good source of information is the website for the Turtle Bay Arboretum (<http://www.turtlebay.org/nursery>) if you find a plant that you like, you can look it up on their website and find out if it is drought tolerant and what sort of maintenance it will require. If you live in the surrounding foothills or mountains, you'll be in a different zone than Redding and your habitat requirements will be different. The *Sunset Western Garden Book* also contains its own version of climate zone maps for western states and includes plant recommendations for specific zones.