



# DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANTS FOR ZONES 8 & 9

Compiled by Joan Goff, Placer County Master Gardener

## Drought-tolerant Plants for Zones 8 & 9, *Full Sun*

Botanical Name	Common Name	Water Needed	Comments (P perennial, A annual, B biennial, T tree)	Zones
<i>Acca sellowiana</i> ( <i>Feijoa sellowiana</i> )	Pineapple Guava	Low to very low	T, edible fruit	8-10
<i>Achilea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Low to Moderate	P, to 2 feet high yellow flower, gray green leaves	5-10
<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Anise Hyssop	Medium	P, to 3 feet high purple or blue flowers	4-9
<i>Arctostaphylos densiflora</i> 'Howard McMinn'	Manzanita Vine Hill	Low to very low	P, pink flowers, red bark	6-10
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> 'Sprengerii'	Asparagus Fern	Low to very low	P, relative of asparagus, evergreen, red berries very tough	9-11
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Blue Grama Grass	Low	P, grass	7-11
<i>Calamintha nepeta</i>	Cat Mint	Low	P, purple flowers	1-9
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Ray Hartman'	Ray Hartman California Lilac	Low	T, blue flowers, small tree	5-9
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Dwarf Plumbago	Low	P, groundcover with purple flowers	2-10
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western Redbud	Low to very low	T, vibrant pink flowers before leaves appear	2-24
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Tickseed	Low to Medium	P, hairy foliage near base, yellow flowers	4-9
<i>Delospernum cooperii</i>	Hardy Ice Plant	Low	P, groundcover with pink flowers	5-11
<i>Epilobium canum</i>	California Fuchsia	Low to very low	P, red flowers, very drought tolerant	2-11
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Garden Spurge	Low to very low	P, leaves in a variety of color, attractive year round, many varieties	4-24
<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Blanket Flower	Medium	P, 2 feet high with daisy like flowers in yellow to red	1-24
<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>	Coral Yucca	Low to very low	P, spiky leaves, red flowers	7-16
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon	Low	P, red berries in winter, dark green leaves	5-9
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crape Myrtle	Medium	P, T, deciduous small tree or large shrub, pink, white or purple flowers	7-10
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deer Grass	Low to very low	P, grass, to 4' x 4',	4-24
<i>Osmanthus x fortunei</i>	Hybrid Tea Olive	Low to medium	T, very fragrant, tiny white flowers, good screen	4-10
<i>Philadelphus</i> 'Belle Etoile'	Purple Spot Mock Orange	Low to medium	P, fragrant white flowers	2-17
<i>Phlomis purpurea</i>	Pink Phlomis	Low to very low	P, lavender pink flowers	7-24

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## Drought-tolerant Plants for Zones 8 & 9, *Full Sun* (cont.)

Botanical Name	Common Name	Water Needed	Comments (P perennial, A annual, B biennial, T tree)	Zones
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak	None to low	T, tolerates heat, provides shade	3-9
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden Currant	Low to medium	P, good under oaks	1-12
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	Low to very low	P, blue flowers, aromatic herb, sizes vary	4-24
<i>Salvia gregii</i>	Autumn Sage	Low	P, small shrub flowers red through white	8-24
<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	Hummingbird Sage	Low to medium	P, pink flowers, drought tolerant ground cover	7-9
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys 'Nanum'</i>	Dwarf Germander	Low	P, groundcover with dark pink	2-24
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	Bush Germander	Low to very low	P, silvery leaves, purple flowers	4-24
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Thyme	Low to Medium		1-24

## Drought-tolerant Plants for Zones 8 & 9, *Part Shade*

Botanical Name	Common Name	Water Needed	Comments (P perennial, A annual, B biennial, T tree)	Zones
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's Breech	Low to medium	P, dramatic leaves, flower spike	5-24
<i>Acca sellowiana</i> 'Feijoa sellowiana'	Pineapple Guava	Low to very low	T, edible fruit	8-10
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> 'Island Pink'	Island Pink Yarrow	Low to medium	P, will spread	1-24
<i>Amaryllis belladonna</i>	Belladonna Lily	Low to very low	Bulb, large pink flowers	4-24
<i>Arbutus uendo</i>	Strawberry Tree	Low to medium	T, red fruit	4-24
<i>Arctostaphylos densiflora</i> 'Howard McMinn'	Manzanita Vine Hill	Low to very low	P, pink flowers, red bark	6-10
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> 'Sprengerii'	Asparagus Fern	Low to very low	P, relative of asparagus, evergreen, red berries very tough	9-11
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon Grape	Low to medium	Yellow flowers, small fruits, very tough	2-12
<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	Bush Anemone	Low to very low	Large white flowers, attractive bark	5-9
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western Redbud	Low to very low	T, vibrant pink flowers before leaves appear	2-24
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	Ivy Leaf Cyclamen	Low to very low	P, white or pink flowers	2-9
<i>Daphne odora</i>	Winter Daphne	Low to medium	Very fragrant, pink flowers	4-10
<i>Echeveria</i>	Hens & Chicks	Low to medium	Succulent, low spreading habit, pink flowers	8-9
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Garden Spurge	Low to very low	P, leaves in a variety of color, attractive year round, many varieties	4-24
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon	Low	P, red berries in winter, dark green leaves	5-9
<i>Heuchera</i>	Coral Bells	Low	P, flowers, various colored leaves	1-9
<i>Iris Pacific</i>	Pacific Coast Hybrids	Low	P, strappy leaves, large flowers	4-9

## Drought-tolerant Plants for Zones 8 & 9, *Part Shade* (cont.)

Botanical Name	Common Name	Water Needed	Comments (P perennial, A annual, B biennial, T tree)	Zones
<i>Osmanthus x fortunei</i>	Hybrid Tea Olive	Low to medium	T, very fragrant, tiny white flowers, good screen	4-10
<i>Philadelphus 'Belle Etoile'</i>	Purple Spot Mock Orange	Low to medium	P, fragrant white flowers	2-17
<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	Hummingbird Sage	Low to medium	P, pink flowers, drought tolerant ground cover	7-9
<i>Sambucus Nigra mexicana</i>	Elderberry	Low to none	T, white flowers, blue berries	2-24
<i>Syringa x laciniata</i>	Cut Leaf Lilac	Low to medium	P, fragrant purple flowers	3-12
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	Bush Germander	Low to very low	P, silvery leaves, purple flowers	4-24

## Drought-tolerant Plants for Zones 8 & 9, *Shade*

Botanical Name	Common Name	Water Needed	Comments (P perennial, A annual, B biennial, T tree)	Zones
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's Breech	Low to medium	P, dramatic glossy green leaves, flower spikes, dies back	5-24
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	Bergenia	Low to medium	P, purple flowers, 1' x 1'	3-8
<i>Carex divisa</i>	Berkeley Sedge	Low to medium	P, grass like, tough 2' x 2', good under trees	4-10
<i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>	Japanese Holly Fern	Low to medium	P, fern, dramatic leaves	5-9
<i>Daphne odora</i>	Winter Daphne	Low to medium	P, very fragrant, pink flowers,	4-10
<i>Fragaria vesca ssp. californica</i>	Woodland Strawberry	Low to medium	P, ground cover, runs 4' x ?	7-10
<i>Helleborus orientalis</i>	Lenten Rose	Low to medium	P, winter flowering	2-10
<i>Heuchera</i>	Coral Bells	Low	P, flowers, various colored leaves	1-9
<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Oceanspray	Low to medium	P, fragrant flowers, to 8' x 8'	5-11
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon Grape	Low	P, yellow flowers, small fruits, very tough	2-12
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Western Sword Fern	Low to medium	P, fern, dramatic leaves, tough	4-11
<i>Sedum palmeri</i>	Sedum	Low to medium	P, succulent ground cover, 12" x 3'	8-10

### References:

All-Stars Plant Search. UC Davis Arboretum. March 1, 2016. [http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant\\_search.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant_search.aspx)

Sunset Western Garden Book. Editors of Sunset Magazine, Menlo Park, Sunset Books, 2012

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