

## Here Are Plants That Grow Best in Your Shasta County Yard

Leimone Waite, Master Gardener, April 16, 2020

**Q.** Last fall I moved into a new house in Redding. The yard is mostly a blank slate. Most of my gardening experience is from Southern California and I want to know which plants will grow best here in Redding.

**A.** Redding enjoys a modified Mediterranean climate with moderately cold wet winters, and very hot dry summers, along with moderate fall and spring weather. This provides us with a very long growing season as long as plants can tolerate the heat of summer.

Such a climate allows you to select from a wide range of plants and trees, including most of the temperate fruits and citrus which can take a little cold.

Redding and its surrounding area is a USDA climate zone 9a; 9b in some microclimates.

Outlying areas such as Palo Cedro can get colder, so be sure to ask neighbors how cold your lowest temperatures dip during winter.

Another thing to keep in mind when choosing plants for this area is that we are quite a bit wetter in the winter than Southern California. Redding's average rainfall is around 35 inches — sometimes quite a bit more, so cacti and succulents don't do well unless they are provided very good drainage and a bit of cover during the wettest months.

For some landscape ideas you might hire a local landscape designer who is familiar with what plants do well here, and can give you some design ideas or an entire landscape plan to work with.

If you are more of a do-it-yourself type of person, check out the City of Redding's Water Smart web page at [www.reddingwatersmart.com](http://www.reddingwatersmart.com). This is an online resource that features examples of gardens and landscapes. It includes an extensive interactive list of plants that are drought tolerant and do well in Mediterranean climates.

If you're interested in using California Native plants, Las Pilitas Nursery has a free design tool at [www.mynativeplants.com](http://www.mynativeplants.com) that will give you a list of native plants that will grow in your zip code and with your site conditions. You enter information including how often you water and your soil type. Then you're provided a list of California Native plants that will do well at your site. You can further narrow down the list by entering size and other plant features desired.

Other resources include independent nurseries, such as Wyntour Gardens. These can usually be counted on to carry varieties that do well here, and since nurseries are considered essential businesses, they are still open.

The McConnell Arboretum at Turtle Bay has an online plant sale with curbside pick-up. They sell California native and Mediterranean species of plants, propagated from local plants, that do well in the local climate. Their plant list can be found at [www.turtlebay.org/nursery](http://www.turtlebay.org/nursery).

*The Shasta Master Gardeners Program can be reached by phone at 242-2219 or email [mastergardener@shastacollege.edu](mailto:mastergardener@shastacollege.edu). The gardener office is staffed by volunteers trained by the University of California to answer gardeners' questions using information based on scientific research.*