Drought-Resistant Crops and Varieties

Some crops and varieties require less water than others once they are established. The vegetables, grains and herbs on the following list were selected from seed catalogs and seed catalog websites that specifically mention the terms "drought-resistant" or "drought-tolerant" in the variety description. The list is not exhaustive, but represents an opportunity for the home food gardener to consider new (or new to you) and/or unusual crops or varieties that allow you to be water-wise. For additional possibilities, consult seed companies or nurseries that specialize in plants suitable for desert or dry climate areas.

**BEANS**
- **BUSH BEANS**
  - White Half Runner Snap
- **BUTTER BEANS**
  - Jackson Wonder Bush
- **GARBANZO BEANS**
  - Ceci
- **LIMA BEANS**
  - Alabama Black-Eyed Butter
  - Carolina Sieva
  - Christmas
  - Fordhook 242 Bush
  - Henderson Bush
  - Jackson Wonder
  - Pima Orange
  - Willow Le
- **POLE BEANS**
  - Blue Coco
  - Garden of Eden Romano
  - Louisiana Purple Pod
  - McCaslan Snap
  - Rattlesnake
  - Selma Zesta
  - Selma Zebra
- **TEPARY BEANS** - need warm nights
  - Big Fields White
  - Black
  - Blue Speckled
  - Brown Speckled
  - Cocopah Brown
  - Colonia Morelos Speckled
  - Mitla Black
  - Pinacate
  - Sacaton Brown
  - Tohono O’odham White

**BROCCOLI**
- Waltham 29 - when fall planted

**CHARD**
- Almost all varieties listed in desert or dry climate catalogs

**CORN**
- Anasazi Sweet
- Daymon Morgan’s Kentucky Butcher
- Hopi Blue Flour
- Hopi Pink
- Painted Mountain Flour
- Pinky Popcorn
- Silver Queen Hybrid Sweet
- Tennessee Red Cob

**COWPEAS** - need warm nights
- Pink-Eye Purple-Hull

**CUCUMBER**
- Armenian
- Lemon

**EGGPLANT**
- Listada de Gandia

**GRAINS**
- **AMARANTH**
  - Mayo
  - Red Stripe Leaf
  - Tampala
- **BARLEY**
  - Ethiopian Hulless
  - Jet
  - Milan
- **QUINOA** - all varieties

**WHEAT**
- Hard Red Spring
- Kamut
- Vaughan Turkey
- White Sonoran

**HERBS**
- Basil - Mrs. Burns’ Lemon
- Borage
- Catnip
- Chamomile, German
- Chives
- Hyssop
- Lavender
- Lemon Balm
- Mullein
- Oregano
- Rosemary
- Sage - once it’s established
- Sweet Marjoram
- Thyme

**MELOM**
- Iroquois
- Navajo Yellow

**MUSTARD** - uses less water than many other cultivated vegetables
- Southern Giant Curled

**OKRA** - needs warm nights
- Gold Coast
- Hill Country Heirloom Red
- Jing Orange

**PEPPER**
- Jupiter Red Bell
- Ordoño
SQUASH
Cocozelle Zucchini
Costata Romanesco
Cushaw Green-Striped
Dark Star Zucchini
Iran
Jumbo Pink Banana
Lebanese Light Green

SUNFLOWER
Skyscraper - edible seed

TOMATO
Caro Rich
Pearson
Pineapple
Stone
Yellow Pear Cherry

WATERMELON
Black Diamond

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Also, see “Food Gardening with Less Water,”
http://ucanr.edu/sites/scmg/files/183770.pdf
For more information about FGS education and consulting services see
http://ucanr.edu/sites/scmg/Food_Gardening_Specialists/

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SEED SAVING ORGANIZATIONS AND SEED COMPANIES

The following list is comprised of local, regional (West Coast) and national seed companies. To food garden with less water, look for seed that is drought-tolerant, drought-resistant, dry-farmed, and consult catalogs that specialize in seeds for desert or dry climate areas. Local seed companies may have seed that is well adapted to Sonoma County’s Mediterranean climate.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Seed Savers Exchange</th>
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<td>Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds</td>
<td>Missouri and Petaluma, CA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rareseeds.com/">www.rareseeds.com/</a></td>
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<td>Bountiful Gardens</td>
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<td>Deep Harvest Farm</td>
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<td>Diaspora Seeds</td>
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<td>Sand Hill Preservation Center</td>
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<td>Wild Garden Seed</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.wildgarden">www.wildgarden</a> seed.com/</td>
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