



DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS

By Thea Fiskin, UC Master Gardener



ANNUALS/ BULBS/ PERENNIALS

<i>Achillea species</i>	Yarrow	deer resistant/ lawn replacement
<i>Amaryllis belladonna</i>	Naked Lady Lily	
<i>Anigozanthos species</i>	Kangaroo paw	
<i>Artemisa species</i>	Wormwood	extremely drought tolerant
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly weed	attracts butterflies/hummingbirds
<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>	Chocolate daisy	
<i>Cleome hasslerana</i>	Spider flower	extremely drought tolerant
<i>Coreopsis species</i>	Coreopsis	deer resistant
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Dwarf pampas grass	deer resistant (invasive)
<i>Encelia californica*</i>	California Sunflower	evergreen perennial
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Santa Barbara Daisy	perennial
<i>Eriogonum species</i>	Buckwheat	attracts butterflies/birds
<i>Erysimum species</i>	Wallflower	biennial
<i>Eschscholzia californica*</i>	California poppy	
<i>Gaillardia grandiflora</i>	Gaillardia	perennial
<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>	Wandflower	
<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>	Red Yucca	
<i>Iris</i>	Bearded iris	
<i>Lavandula species</i>	Lavender	deer resistant/attracts butterflies
<i>Leonotis leonurus</i>	Lion's tail	attracts hummingbirds
<i>Narcissus</i>	Daffodil	gopher resistant
<i>Nepeta</i>	Catmint	attracts butterflies
<i>Oenothera species</i>	Evening primrose	deer resistant (invasive)
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Fountain grass	(invasive)
<i>Penstemon species</i>	Beards tongue	
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	Russian sage	
<i>Phlomis species</i>		
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Mexican hat	attracts butterflies
<i>Sedum species</i>		
<i>Senecio cineraria</i>	Dusty Miller	extremely drought tolerant
<i>Solidago</i>	Goldenrod	tolerates drought/shade
<i>Stachys</i>	Lamb's ears	deer resistant
<i>Thymus</i>	Thyme	deer resistant/ lawn replacement
<i>Verbena species</i>		attracts butterflies
<i>Watsonia</i>	Bugle Lily	
<i>Zauschneria*</i>	California fuchsia	deer resistant/attracts hummingbirds

* California native

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

<i>Achnatherum nelsonii</i> *	Nelson's Needlegrass	
<i>Bouteloua gracillis</i>	Gamma grass	
<i>Buchloe dactiloides</i>	Buffalo grass	
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair Grass	
<i>Gaillardia grandiflora</i>	Gaillardia	
<i>Leymus triticoides</i>	Creeping wild rye	
<i>Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus'</i>	Zebra grass	
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deer grass	
<i>Nassella (Stipa) pulchra</i> *	Purple Needle Grass	
<i>Nolina bigelovii</i>	Bear Grass	
<i>Pennisetum orientale</i>	Oriental Fountain Grass	not invasive
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Fountain Grass	invasive, however cultivar 'Rubrum' is not

SHRUBS

<i>Acacia cultriformis</i>	Knife Acacia	extremely drought tolerant
<i>Arctostaphylos species</i> *	Manzanita	no alkaline soil
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> *	Coyote brush	extremely drought tolerant
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i> *	Oregon Grape	better in part shade
<i>Bupleurum fruticosum</i>	Shrubby Hare's ear	
<i>Caesalpinia gilliesii</i>	Bird of Paradise Bush	attracts hummingbirds
<i>Carpenteria californica</i> *	Bush anemone	
<i>Caryopteris species</i>	Bluebeard	
<i>Ceanothus species</i> *	California (wild) lilac	
<i>Cistus species</i>	Rockrose	extremely drought tolerant
<i>Convolvulus species</i>	Bush morning glory	
<i>Cotoneaster species</i>		
<i>Dasyllirion longissima</i>	Mexican Grass Tree	
<i>Fatsia japonica</i>	Japanese Aralia	
<i>Fremontodendron species</i> *	Flannel bush	
<i>Grevillea rosmarinifolia</i>	Rosemary Grevillea	extremely drought tolerant
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> *	Toyon/ California holly	
<i>Juniperus species</i>	Junipers	
<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	Texas Ranger	extremely drought tolerant
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Myrtle	
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Heavenly bamboo	
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	extremely drought tolerant
<i>Osmanthus fragrans</i>	sweet olive	wonderful fragrance in bloom
<i>Plumbago auriciata</i>	Dwarf Plumbago	shrub
<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>	Indian Hawthorn	extremely drought tolerant
<i>Rhamnus californica</i> *	Coffeeberry	extremely drought tolerant
<i>Ribes species</i> *	Currants/gooseberries	
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	extremely drought tolerant
<i>Romneya coulteri</i> *	Matilija poppy	extremely drought tolerant
<i>Salvia species</i> *		attracts hummingbirds
<i>Santolina species</i>		extremely drought tolerant
<i>Xylosma congestum</i>	Xylosma	

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TREES

Aesculus californica*	California buckeye	will drop leaves in July without water
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree	
Arbutus menziesii*	Madrone	
Cercidium species	Palo Verde	
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	
Castanea species	Chestnut	litter/strong odor
Chilopsis linearis	Desert Willow	blooms all summer
Chitalpa tashkentensis	Chitalpa	cross between Catalpa & Chilopsis
Cotinus coggygria	Smoke Bush	
Cupressus arizonica	Arizona cypress	
Cupressus forbesii*	Tecate Cypress	
Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian Olive	Extremely drought tolerant
Eucalyptus cinerea	Silver Dollar Gum	
Eucalyptus sideroxyylon	Pink Iron Bark Eucalyptus	
Eucalyptus viminalis	White Gum Eucalyptus	
Fraxinus dipetala*	Flowering Ash	
Koelreuteria paniculata	Golden Rain Tree	Extremely drought tolerant
Laurus nobilis	Sweet Bay	
Lagerstroemia indica	Crape myrtle	
Olea europaea	Olive	
Pinus canariensis	Canary Island Pine	
Pinus coulteri *	Coulter Pine	
Pinus halepensis	Aleppo Pine	
Pinus monophylla*	Singleleaf Piñon Pine	
Pinus mugo mugo	Mugho Pine	
Pinus roxburghii*	Indian Long Leaf Pine	
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese pistache	
Punica granatum	Pomegranate	attracts hummingbirds
Rhus lancea	African sumac	
Robinia species	Locust	
Sambucus mexicana*	Blue elderberry	
Tamarix species	Salt cedars	
Quercus species	Oak	
Umbellularia californica*	California bay, CA laurel	
Vitex agnus-castus	Chaste Tree	
Yucca species*	Yucca	Extremely drought tolerant

REFERENCES: The above list was compiled from the following resources

1. Plant list from Master Gardener Judy Lowery's Springville Garden
2. Plant list from Master Gardener Thea Fiskin's Tulare Garden
3. Sunset Western Garden Book, 2001.
4. California Native Plants for the Garden by Cacuma Press
5. Taylor's Guide to Water Saving Gardening by Houghton Mifflin Company
6. Tough Plants for California Gardens by Felder Rushing
7. Ornamental Plants Their Care, Use, Propagation and Identification by D Dwight Wait
8. Native California Plants for the Mixed Perennial Border, a hand out from Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
9. High Country Gardens, a waterwise gardening catalog from New Mexico

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