

With increasing temperatures and water prices, drought tolerant plants are becoming more popular. The following list provides suggestions for trees and shrubs for hot, dry and sunny areas. Plants may be subject to seasonal availability.

Plants with an * are evergreen.

Trees



Albizia julibrissin, Silk Tree. Fast to 20-35' tall/wide. Pink puffy flowers. Full sun.

**Arbutus menziesii*, Madrone. Slow growing to 35-45' tall. Red bark, white bell shaped flowers.

**Calocedrus decurrens*, Incense Cedar. Native. Dense conifer to 75-90' tall 50' wide.

**Cedrus deodora*, Deodar Cedar Clusters of bluish needles. Fast growing to 40-80' tall and 40' wide.

Cercis occidentalis, Western Redbud Native. Pink flowers in spring. Green heart shaped leaves. 10-18' tall/wide.

**Cupressus glabra*, Arizona Cypress- Steel blue thread-like foliage. Fast growing to 40' tall and 20' wide.

**Eucalyptus sp.*- Most species have silver or grey green leaves and beautiful bark.

Ficus carica, edible Fig.- Large hand shaped leaves. Edible fruit in fall. Fast to 20' tall/wide.

Gleditsia triacanthos, Honey locust- Thin leaves and an airy structure. Fast to 35-50'tall/wide.

Juglans sp., Walnut species- Large compound leaves. Fast to 60'+.

**Juniperus chinensis 'Tortulosa'* Hollywood juniper- A wind swept habit. Fast to 15' tall/wide. Zones 3-9.

Koelreuteria paniculata, Golden rain tree Sprays of yellow flowers in summer. Fast to 20-35' tall 10-40' wide. Zones 5-9

**Pinus sp.*, Pine species Zones vary

Pistacia chinensis, Pistache tree- Great fall color. Reaches 45'+tall/wide. Zones 6-9.

Robinia sp., Locust species- Compound leaves. Pea shaped flowers in summer. Fast to 45'+ tall/wide. Zones 3-8.

Rhus typhina, Staghorn Sumac- Amazing fall color. Fuzzy stems. 15-25' tall/wide.

**Sequoiadendron giganteum*, Giant Redwood- Scaly foliage. Very fast reaching 60-100'+tall. Zones 6-8.

Shrubs



**Arbutus unedo 'Compacta'*, Strawberry bush- Reddish peeling bark. White/pink, red fruits. Slow to 8-10' tall/wide. Zones 7-9.

**Callistemon citrinus*, Bottlebush- Thin leaves, bright red bristle like flowers. Grows 10-15' tall/wide. Zones 9-10.

Caragana arborescens, Siberian Pea shrub- Lacey leaves, yellow flowers. Fast, 15-20' tall 12-18' wide. Zones 2-8.

Caryopteris x clandonensis, Bluebeard- Deep blue flowers, grayish leaves. Fast to 2-4' tall/wide. Zones 6-9.

Cassia corymbosa- Slender leaves, yellow flowers. Fast to 8-12' tall/wide zone 7.

**Ceanothus sp.*, California lilac- Shiny leaves and blue flowers. Size varies from 5-8' tall/wide. Zones vary.

Ceratositgma plumbaganoides Plumbago- Blue flowers, red fall color. Fast, 6-12" tall.

**Cistus sp.* Rockrose- Simple rose like flowers in shades of pink and white. Size ranges from 2'-5' tall/wide. Zones vary

**Convolvulus cneorum* Bush Morning glory- Small silver foliage, white flowers. 2-4'tall/wide. Zones 6-9.

Cotinus coggygria Smoketree- Maroon or blue green foliage. Airy flowers. Fall color. 15' tall/wide. Zones 4-9.

**Elaeagnus sp.*- Most have silvery leaves. Fast to 5-6' tall/wide. Zones 6-9.

**Escallonia sp.*- Pink flowers spring-summer. 5-8' tall/wide.

**Fremontodendron californica*, Flannel bush – Large yellow flowers, lobed leaves. Fast 6'+ tall/wide. Zones 6-10.

**Garrya elliptica*, Silk Tassel- Long drooping flowers in winter. Slow 4-8' tall/wide. Zones 6-9.

**Genista tinctora* or *G. pilosa*- Yellow flowers. Ranges from 1'-3' tall and 3' wide.

Grevillea victoriae- Silvery leaves, winter bloom. Slow 5-6' tall/wide. Zone 7.

**Hippophae rhamnoides* Seaberry- Thin silver leaves, orange edible fruits. Fast 8-10' tall/wide. Need male and female.

Lagerstromia indica Crape Myrtle- Peeling bark, late flowers in white and pinks. Fall color. Size ranges from 4-18' tall/wide.

**Mahonia sp.* Oregon grape- Holly like leaves, yellow flowers. Size ranges from 1 1/2 -8' tall/wide. Sun, part shade. Zones 4-8.

**Myrica californica* California wax myrtle- Fragrant dark green leaves. 6-15' tall/wide.

**Photinia x fraseri*- Red new growth. Fast 10'+ tall/wide. Zones 7-9.

Potentilla fruticosa- Profuse small flowers in a wide range of colors. 2-3' tall/wide.

Punica granatum Flowering pomegranate- Orange or apricot flowers. Fall color. 8-10' tall/wide. Zones 8-10.

Pyracantha coccinea. Firethorn- Sharp thorns, red berries. Size ranges from 3-10' tall/wide. Zones 6-9.

Rhamnus frangula 'Angustifolia' Buckthorn- Thin leaves, yellow in fall. Fast 10-12' tall 6-10' wide. Zones 2-8.

Rosa rugosa Wild rose- Single pink or white flowers, big hips. 3-8' tall/wide.

**Taxus sp* Yew- Dark green needles. Slow growing. Many types and sizes. Zones 5-8.

Vitex angus-castus Chaste Tree- Finger like leaves, spikes of blue or white flowers. Fast, 8-10' tall/wide. Zones 7-9

**Yucca sp.*- Broad spiky foliage. Tall white flowers. Size ranges from 2-6' tall/wide. Zones 5-9.

Establishing Drought tolerant plants

Drought tolerant plants can survive hot and dry situations due to various adaptations to the plant form or growth habit. Many drought tolerant plants have small leathery or hairy leaves, which help reduce the loss of water. Almost all drought tolerant plants send out an extensive taproot in search of water deep below the soil surface. This taproot is the key to the survival of your drought tolerant plants.

Most tap rooted plants need good drainage so the root does not rot in our wet winters. This means adding compost to the planting area because our soil is often heavy clay. We recommend 1/3 compost to 2/3 existing soil. It is even important to amend on a sloped site to insure some water will get to the plant roots.

Even drought tolerant plants need water. This is especially important in the first season while the plants are sending out that deep taproot. We recommend watering new trees and shrubs for one hour a week. Administer water slowly so it does not flow off. Drought tolerant plants may need infrequent watering in the hottest parts of the season for the second and third seasons. If the plants are starting to wilt, give them a good long drink.

Mulching beds that are in hot and dry situations helps maintain soil moisture, and promotes healthy soil microbes. We recommend mulching with compost at least once a year in the Fall.

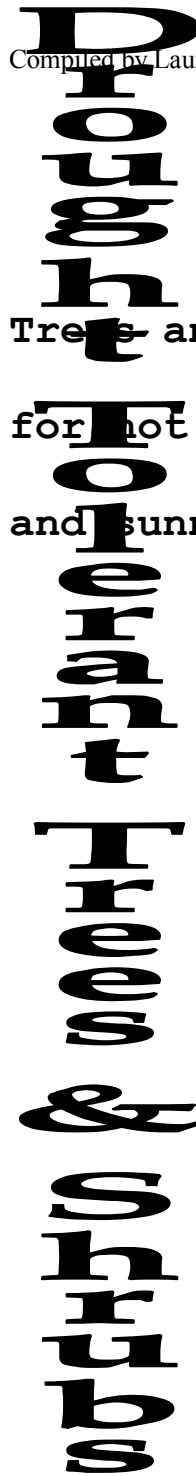
Compiled by Laura Altwater

Drought tolerant trees and shrubs

Trees and shrubs

for hot, dry

and sunny areas





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