



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>Achillea 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> 'Sprengeri'	Asparagus Fern	Low to very low	P, relative of asparagus, every green, 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>Delospermum 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

UC Master Gardeners of Placer County are University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) ambassadors to the Placer County home gardening community. Master Gardeners promote environmental awareness and sustainable landscape practices, and extend research-based gardening and composting information to the public through educational outreach. UCCE is part of the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) of the University of California. UCCE Placer County: 11477 E Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603, (530) 889-7385

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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 spicata</i>	Hummingbird Sage	Low to medium	P, pink flowers, drought tolerant ground cover	7-9
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i> 'Nanum'	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> 'Sprengeri'	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 spicata</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>Syringia 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 divulsa</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

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

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, PLANTS Database. March 1, 2016. <http://plants.usda.gov/>