

LIST OF DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS AVAILABLE AT

EXPLANATION FOR CODES:

Type - E = Evergreens D = Deciduous P = Palm C = Conifer B = Bulb

WATER NEEDS-

1 = Can become drought tolerant with correct watering techniques

2 = Needs some summer water

3 = Will survive on natural rainfall once established



Botanical Name	Common Name	Hgt/Wdt	Flower Color	Flower Season	Sun/Shade	Temp	Growth Rate	Type	Water Needs	Notes
Trees										
Acacia baileyana	Bailey Acacia	20x30	Yellow	Jan-Feb	Sun	15-20	Fast	E	2-3	Attracts birds
Acacia pendula	Weeping Acacia	25x15	Yellow	Apr-Mar	Sun	15-20	Slow	E	2-3	Nice weeping tree
Agonis flexuosa	Peppermint tree	25x25	White	June	Sun	27	Fast	E	2-3	Leaves smell like peppermint when crushed
Albizzia julibrissin	Silk tree	20x25	Pink	Summer	Sun	0	Fast	D	2	Good in desert
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry tree	35x35	White	Fall	Sun	0	Slow	E	2-3	Fruit is edible but tasteless
Beaucarnea recurvata	Bottle palm	5x3			Sun	20	Slow	P	3	Good houseplant
Brachychiton acerifolius	Flame tree	60x40	Red	Spring	Sun	25	Mod.	D	2	Nice silhouette
Brachychiton populneus	Bottle tree	50x30	White	Spring	Sun	28	Mod.	E	2	Massive trunk
Brahea armata	Mexican Blue palm	30	White	Summer	Sun	18	Slow	P	3	Silver leaves
Brahea edulis	Guadalupe palm	30			Sun	20	Slow	P	3	Green leaves
Cedrus deodora	Deodar Cedar	80x40			Sun	0	Fast	C	3	Good screen
Ceratonia siliqua	Carob tree	30x35	Red	Spring	Sun	18	Mod.	E	3	Female trees produce pods
Chamerops humilis	Mediterranean Fan palm	20x20	Pink		Sun	15	Slow	P	2	Clumps from base
Chorisia speciosa	Floss Silk tree	50x30			Sun	27	Slow	D	2	Spiny trunk at base
Cupressocyparis leylandii	Leylandi Cypress	70x40			Sun	15	Fast	C	2	Good screen
Cupressus sempervirens	Italian Cypress	60x10	White	Fall	Sun	15	Mod.	C	2	Nice silhouette
Eriobotrya japonica	Loquat	20x20			Sun	20	Mod.	E	2	Excellent fruit
Eucalyptus citriodora	Lemon Scented Gum	75			Sun	25	Fast	E	2	Beautiful silhouette
Eucalyptus nicholii	Willow Leaved Peppermint	40			Sun	12-15	Fast	E	2	Good street tree
Eucalyptus polyanthemos	Silver Dollar Gum	50			Sun	14-18	Fast	E	2	Juvenile leaves change shape when mature
Eucalyptus sideroxylon	Red Ironbark	20-80	Pink	Summer	Sun	15	Fast	E	2	Slender foliage, reddish bark
Geuera parviflora	Australian Willow	25			Sun	15	Mod.	E	2	Beautiful small garden tree
Grevillea robusta	Silk Oak	60			Sun	24	Fast	E	2-3	Heavy leaf fall
Ginkgo biloba	Maidenhair tree	60			Sun	0	Slow	D	3	Plant male trees only
Koelreuteria paniculata	Goldenrain tree	35x40	Yellow	Summer	Sun	0	Slow	D	2	Takes adverse conditions
Lagerstroemia indica	Crepe Myrtle	30	Pink	Summer	Sun	0	Slow	D	2-3	Mildew problem
Melaleuca nesophila	Pink Melaleuca	25	Pink	All	Sun	25	Fast	E	2-3	Beautiful twisted trunk
Melaleuca quinquinerva	Cajeput tree	35	Yellow	Summer	Sun	25	Fast	E	2	Good street tree
Metrosideros excelsus	New Zealand Xmas tree	25	Red	Summer	Sun	25	Mod.	E	1-2	Excellent coastal tree
Nerium oleander	Oleander (standard)	12	Varies	Warm Months	Sun	15	Fast	E	2-3	Best use of oleander
Olea europaea	Olive	30			Sun	15	Slow	D	3	Fruit can be messy
Pinus halepensis	Aleppo pine	30-60			Sun	0	Mod.	C	3	Nice airy texture
Pinus pinea	Italian Stone pine	40-80			Sun	0	Mod.	C	2-3	Tolerates many conditions
Pinus elderrica	Calabrian pine	30-80			Sun	0	Fast	C	2	Tolerates many conditions
Pinus torreyana	Torrey pine	40-60			Sun	12	Slow	C	3	Best on coast
Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	20-70			Sun	20	Fast	E	3	Native to California
Quercus ilex	Holly Oak	40-70			Sun	20	Fast	E	2	Good street tree
Rhus lancea	African Sumac	25			Sun	12	Fast	E	2	Interesting branch pattern
Schinus molle	California Pepper tree	20-40			Sun	20	Fast	E	3	Very messy but pretty, invasive roots
Schinus terebinthifolius	Brazilian Pepper tree	30			Sun	25-28	Mod.	E	3	More dense than above
Sequoia sempervirens	Coast Redwood	70-90			Sun/prt Sh	0	Fast	C	2	Too large for residential use
Tipuana tipu	Tipu tree	25-40	Yellow	Summer	Sun		Fast	D	3	Best inland
Tristania conferta	Brisbane Box	30-60	White	Summer	Sun	26	Fast	E	2-3	Excellent alternative to Eucalyptus
Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese Evergreen Elm	60-70	White	Fall	Sun	15	Fast	E	2	Can be messy
Yucca gloriosa	Spanish Dagger	10	White	Fall	Sun	25	Mod.	E	3	Looks good in tropical or desert gardens

Shrubs										
Acacia cuitriformis	Knife Acacia	15-Oct	Yellow	March	Sun	25	Fast	E	2	Interesting leaf pattern, good for arrangements
Acacia longifolia	Sydney Golden Wattle	20x20	Yellow	March	Sun	25	Fast	E	2	Good screen on coast
Acacia redolens	Prostrate Acacia	3x15	Yellow	Spring	Sun	20-25	Fast	E	2-3	Excellent ground cover on banks
Aloygne huegelli	Blue Hibiscus	5x8	Blue	All	Sun	23	Mod.	E	2	Nice against walls
Aucuba japonica	Gold Dust plant	6x4	Red	March	Shade	15	Mod.	E	2	Grown for colorful foliage
Callistemon citrinus	Lemon Bottlebrush	10x15	Red	All	Sun	25	Fast	E	2	Tolerates many conditions
Camellia sasanqua	Sun Camellia	varies	Varies	Winter	Prt. Shade	20	Mod.	E	2	Can take more sun & drought than other cam.
Ceanothus g. horizontalis	Carmel Creeper	18"x8'	Blue	Spring	Sun	25	Mod.	E	3	Excellent ground cover on banks
Cistus hybridus	White Rockrose	12x10	White	Spring	Sun	15	Fast	E	3	Good for rock garden
Citrus purpureous	Orchid Rockrose	5x5	Orchid	Summer	Sun	15	Fast	E	2-3	Good on coast
Convolvulus cneorum	Bush Morning Glory	4x4	Pink	Summer	Sun	15-18	Fast	E	2	Fire retardant
Cofrosma 'Coppershine'	Mirror plant	6x6			Sun	23-25	Fast	E	2-3	New growth is copper color
Cotoneaster d. 'Lowfast'	Lowfast Cotoneaster	1x15	White	Spring	Sun	0	Fast	E	2	Grown for red berries in winter
Cotoneaster parneyi	Red Clusterberry	8	White	Spring	Sun	0	Fast	E	2	Good for sloops
Dietes bicolor	Peacock Flower	30"	Yellow	Spring/Summer	Sun	25	Mod.	E	2	Add nice texture in landscape
Dietes vegeta	Fortnight Lily	30"	Blue	Spring/Summer	Sun	25	Mod.	E	2	Good filler plant
Dodonaea v. 'Purpurea'	Purple Hopseed bush	12x12			Sun	20	Fast	E	2-3	Good hedge
Echium fastuosum	Pride of Madeira	3x6	Blue	Spring	Sun	25	Fast	E	3	Good on banks
Escallonia fradesii	Pink Princess Escallonia	6	Pink	All	Sun	15	Fast	E	2	Looks best when not clipped as hedge
Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple Guava	18x25	White	Spring	Sun	25	Fast	E	2	Edible flowers, sweet fruit
Hakea suaveolens	Sweet Hakea	20	White	Fall	Sun	20	Fast	E	2	Good barrier
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	6x10	White	Summer	Sun	0	Slow	E	3	Fire retardant, red berries in winter resembles holly
Lantana montevidensis	Lantana	Varies	Varies	All	Sun	25	Fast	E	2	Deciduous in colder areas
Mahonia aquifolia	Oregon grape	6	Yellow	Spring	Shade	0	Fast	E	2	Attracts birds
Myoporum laetum	Sandalwood	20x30	White	Summer	Sun	25	Fast	E	1-2	Good substitute for boxwood
Myrsine africana	African Boxwood	3x8			Sun/prt Sh	15	Mod.	E	2-3	Nice color for narrow areas
Nandina domestica	Heavenly Bamboo	6x3	White	Summer	Sun/prt Sh	10	Slow	E	1-2	Tolerates many conditions
Nerium oleander	Oleander	8x12	Varies	Warm Months	Sun	18-20	Fast	E	3	Nice small shrub, poisonous
Nerium oleander 'petite'	Oleander	4x4	Pink/Peach	Warm Months	Sun	18-20	Fast	E	3	Nice small shrub, poisonous
Phormium tenax	Flax	8x5	Purple	Summer	Sun	12-15	Fast	E	2-3	Leaves plenty of room
Pittosporum tobia	Mock Orange	7x5	White	Spring	Sun/prt Sh	20	Mod.	E	2	Excellent basic shrub
Pittosporum tobia ' var.'	Variiegated Mock Orange	5x5	White	Spring	Sun/prt Sh	20	Mod.	E	2	Excellent basic shrub with white & green leaves
Plumbago auriculata	Blue Cape Plumbago	6x8	Blue	Warm Months	Sun	20	Fast	E	2	Nice on banks
Prunus caroliniana	Carolina Cherry	20	White	Spring	Sun	15	Mod.	E	2	Nice small tree
Psidium cattleianum	Strawberry Guava	8x10	White	Spring	Sun	20	Mod.	E	1-2	Fruit makes good jelly
Pyracantha 'Santa Cruz'	Santa Cruz Pyracantha	3x6	White	Spring	Sun	0	Fast	E	2	Red berries in winter
Rhus intergrifolia	Lemonade Berry	10x10	White	Spring	Sun	15	Mod.	E	2-3	Good on coast
Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary	2x6	Blue	Winter	Sun	0	Fast	E	2-3	Fragrant
Tecomaria capensis	Cape Honeysuckle	15x25	Varies	All	Sun	20	Fast	E	2	Good screen
Xylosma congestum	Shiny xylosma	15			Sun/prt Sh	10	Fast	E	2	Nice small tree
Xylosma c. compacta	Compact xylosma	8			Sun/prt Sh	10	Fast	E	2	Soft texture

Groundcover										
Arctotheca calendula	Capeweed	8"x3	Yellow	All	Sun	25	Fast	E	2-3	For large areas
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote bush	24"x6			Sun	10	Fast	E	3	Good bank cover
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow-n-Summer	8"x3	White	Summer	Sun	0	Fast	E	2	Good in rock gardens
Coprosma kirkii		2x3			Sun/prt Sh	20	Fast	E	2	Good on coast
Festuca ovina	Blue festuca	4x6"			Sun	0	Fast	E	2	Nice accent
Gazania		6-12"	Varies	All	Sun	15	Fast	E	2	Two kinds-clumping or trailing
Ice Plant		varies	Varies	Varies	Sun	15	Fast	E	2	Many different types, fire retardant
Lantana	Purple lantana	18"x8	Purple	All	Sun	28-30	Fast	E	2	Nice color for banks
Myoporum parviflora	White Myoporum	6"x5	Pink	Summer	Sun	15	Fast	E	1-2	Nice texture
Ostopermum	African Daisy	1x4	Wh/Purple	Spring	Sun	15	Fast	E	2-3	Fire retardant
Rosmarinus prostrata	Rosemary	2x4	Blue	Winter	Sun	10	Mod.	E	2	Nice spilling over walls
Santolina cham.	Lavender Cotton	2x4	Yellow	Summer	Sun	2	Mod.	E	3	Nice edging & colorful ground cover
Verbena		3"x6	Varies	All	Sun	20	Fast	E	2	Adds nice color
Vinca major	Periwinkle	12" high	Blue	Spring	Shade	10	Fast	E	2	Very invasive
Perennials & Bulbs										
Agapanthus africanus	Lily of the Nile	2' high	Blue/Wh	Spring/Summer	Sun/prt Sh	18	Mod.	B	1-2	Dwarf variety also.
Cortaderia selloana	Pampas Grass	20x10	White	All	Sun	0	Fast	E	2	Too large for residential use
Euryops pectinatus	Euryops Daisy	3x4	Yellow	All	Sun	22-25	Fast	E	2	Prune when leggy
Iris (Bearded)	Iris	Varies	All	Spring	Sun/prt Sh	0	Mod.	B	3	Water only when blooming
Kniphophia uvaria	Red Hot Poker	2	Red/Yel	Spring/Summer	Sun	0	Mod.	E	3	Nice for border
Lavandula dentata	French lavender	3	Purple	All	Sun	20	Mod.	E	2	Excellent for sachet
Limonium perazzi	Sea lavender	2	Purple	All	Sun	28	Mod.	E	2	Good in borders
Pennisetum setaceum	Fountain Grass	4	Purple	All	Sun	0	Fast	D	3	Flowers good in arrangements
Tulbaghia violscea	Society Garlic	1	Purple	All	Sun	25	Fast	E	2	Nice accent
Succulents										
Agave americana	Century plant	6			Sun	18	Slow	E	3	Blooms after ten years
Agave attenuata		5			Sun/prt Sh	25	Slow	E	2-3	Grows in clumps
Aloe vera	Medicinal Aloe	2	Yellow	Varies	Sun	15-18	Mod.	E	2-3	Leaves used for burns
Crassula argentea	Jade plant	6	Pink	Winter	Sun/prt Sh	18-20	Slow	E	2-3	Nice container plant
Euphorbia milli	Crown of Thorns	4-Mar	Orange	All	Sun	25	Slow	E	2-3	Good barrier plant
Kalanchoe species		3-Feb	Varies	Winter	Sun/prt Sh	25-28	Mod.	E	2	Good houseplant
Portulacaria afra	Elephant's food	12			Sun/prt Sh	18	Slow	E	2-3	Good container plant
Vines										
Bougainvillea		varies	Varies	Warm Months	Sun	25	Fast	E	2-3	Can be deciduous in colder areas
Distictis buccinatoria	Blood Red Trumpet vine	30	Red	Warm Months	Sun/prt Sh	24	Mod.	E	2	Climbs by tendrils
Macfadyena unguis cati	Cat's Claw	20-40	Yellow	Spring	Sun	18	Fast	E	2-3	Clings to any surface
Pyracantha fort. 'Graberi'		15x10	White	Spring	Sun	18-20	Fast	E	2-3	Red berries in winter
Pyracantha 'Victory'		10x8	White	Spring	Sun	18	Mod.	E	2-3	Nice espalier
Solanum jasminoides	Potato Vine	30	White	All	Sun/prt Sh	15	Fast	E	2	Nice for shady spot
Wisteria sinensis	Wisteria	30-50	Purple	Spring	Sun/prt Sh	0	Fast	D	2	Give good support