

Low-Water-Use Plants

Introduction

Many of the ornamental plants that have been traditionally used in Washington do not possess the virtue of drought tolerance. Even during normal summers, plants such as rhododendrons, azaleas, Eastern dogwoods, Japanese maples, magnolias, and others that evolved in summer rainfall areas of the world, require a considerable amount of irrigation.

Periodic drought and the ever-increasing human pressure on available water resources are problems that need to be addressed at all levels. Restrictions on the use of water for lawns and landscaping have been put into place in the past and will doubtless be a factor in the future. At the very least, the cost of water will most certainly rise.

The following trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants have been shown by experience here and in other parts of the world to be low-water-use plants. After a period of establishment, the woody plants should be able to grow and prosper with little or no water during the summer. Even the herbaceous plants (annuals, biennials, and perennials) listed can endure long periods between irrigations once they are established. For more information and descriptions of these plants, it is suggested that a good plant manual such as the *Sunset Western Garden Book* be consulted.

In addition to plants that need little water, there are also a number of management techniques that can help to cut down water usage in all landscapes. Mulching, weed control, and drip/trickle irrigation systems can all fit into a concerted effort of water conservation.

Evaporation from the soil surface is one of the more obvious ways that moisture is lost to plants. Covering the soil surface under and around plants with a layer of leaves, bark, wood chips, wood shavings, sawdust, hay, grass clippings, compost, etc., when the soil has water in it, will go a long way toward preventing it from evaporating later. Large trees and shrubs can easily use four to six inches of loose organic mulches. Smaller plants should get less. Weed control is most important. The fewer competitive plants there are in a landscape, the more water there is available for the desirable species. Nurseries and garden centers have various sorts of drip/trickle irrigation system kits and components for sale. These can easily be installed on existing outdoor faucets with no tools necessary.

TREES

Scientific Name

Common Name

Acer ginnala

Amur Maple

Acer glabrum

Rocky Mountain Maple

Acer grandidentatum

Bigtooth Maple

Acer negundo

Boxtooth Elder

Aesculus californica

California Buckeye

Ailanthus altissima

Tree-of-Heaven

TREES

Scientific Name

Albizzia julibrissin rose
Aralia elata
Arbutus menziesii
Arbutus unedo

Broussonetia papyrifera

Calocedrus decurrens
Castanea mollissima
Catalpa speciosa
Cedrus atlantica
Cedrus deodara
Celtis australis
Celtis sinensis
Cercis occidentalis
Cercocarpus betuloides
Cercocarpus ledifolius
Cornus nutallii
Chrysolepis chrysophylla
Cotinus obovatus
Craetaegus sp.
Cupressocyparis x Leylandii
Cupressus glabra

Eucalyptus niphophila

Ficus carica
Fraxinus oxycarpa 'Raywood'
Fraxinus pensylvanica cvs

Ginkgo biloba
Gleditsia triacanthos inermis

Ilex aquifolium

Juglans hindsii
Juglans sp.
Juniperus sp.

Koelreuteria paniculata

Laurus nobilis
Ligustrum lucidum
Lithocarpus densiflorus

Maclura pomifera
Morus alba
Morus nigra

Common Name

Silktree
Japanese Angelica Tree
Madrone

Strawberry Tree

Paper Mulberry
Incense Cedar
Chinese Chestnut
Western Catalpa
Atlas Cedar
Deodar Cedar
European Hackberry
Western Hackberry
Western Redbud
Birch-leaf Mountain Mahogany
Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany
Western Dogwood
Golden Chinkapin
American Smoketree
Hawthorn Species
Leyland Cypress
Arizonia Cypress

Snow Gum

Common Fig
Claret Ash
Green Ash Cultivars

Ginkgo
Thornless Honey Locust

English Holly

California Black Walnut
Other Walnut Species
Juniper Species

Goldenrain Tree

Mediterranean Laurel
Glossy Privet
Tanoak

Osage Orange
White Mulberry
Black Mulberry

TREES

Scientific Name

Phellodendron amurense
Photinia serrulata
Pinus sp.
Platanus x Acerifolia
Prunus laurocerasus
Pseudotsuga menziesii

Quercus chrysolepis
Quercus garryana
Quercus ilex
Quercus kelloggii
Quercus lobata
Quercus sp.

Robinia pseudoacacia

Sambucus caerulea
Sassafras albidum
Sequoiadendron giganteum
Sophora japonica
Sorbus aucuparia

Thuja plicata
Tilia tomentosa

Ulmus parvifolia
Umbellularia californica

Zelkova serrata

Common Name

Amur Cork Tree
Chinese Photinia
Most Pines
London Planetree
Cherry Laurel
Douglas Fir

Canyon Live Oak
Garry Oak
Holly Oak
California Black Oak
Valley Oak
Many Other Oak Species

Black Locust

Blue Elderberry
Sassafras
Giant Sequoia
Japanese Pagoda Tree
European Mountain Ash

Western Red Cedar
Silver Linden

Chinese Elm
Oregon Myrtle

Japanese Zelkova

SHRUBS, VINES, AND GROUNDCOVERS

Scientific Name

Abelia grandiflora
Amelanchier alnifolia
Arctostaphylos sp.
Aronia arbutifolia
Aronia melanocarpa
Aronia prunifolia

Berberis sp.
Buddleia alternifolia
Buddleia davidii
Buxus microphylla japonica

Callicarpa sp.
Calycanthus occidentalis
Campsis radicans

Common Name

Glossy Abelia
Western Serviceberry
Manzanita Species
Red Chokeberry
Black Chokeberry
Purple Chokeberry

Barberry Species
Fountain Butterfly Bush
Common Butterfly Bush
Japanese Boxwood

Beautyberry Species
Western Spice Bush
Trumpet Creeper

SHRUBS, VINES, AND GROWDCOVERS

Scientific Name

Caragana arborescens
Carpenteria californica
Ceanothus sp.
Chaenomeles sp. + cvs.
Cistus sp. + cvs.
Clematis armandii
Comptonia peregrina
Cornus stolonifera
Corylus sp. + cvs.
Cotinus coggygria
Cotoneaster sp.
Cytisus sp.

Deutzia sp.

Eleagnus sp.
Escallonia sp.
Euonymus sp.

Forsythia sp.

Garrya elliptica
Gaultheria shallon
Genista sp.

Hebe sp. + cvs
Hedera helix
Helianthemum nummularium
Hippophae rhamnoides
Holodiscus discolor
Hypericum calycinum

Juniperus sp.

Kerria japonica
Kolkwitzia amabilis

Lavandula sp.
Ligustrum sp.
Lonicera sp.
Lupinus arboreus

Mahonia aquifolium + cvs.
Mahonia nervosa
Mahonia pinnata
Mahonia repens
Myrica californica

Common Name

Siberian Peashrub
Bush Anemone
Most Ceanothus Species
Flowering Quince Species/Cultivars
Rock Rose Species/Cultivars
Evergreen Clematis
Sweet Fern
Red Osier Dogwood
Filbert Species/Cultivars
European Smoketree
Cotoneaster Species
Broom Species

Deutzia Species

All Eleagnus Species
Escallonia Species
Euonymus Species

Forsythia Species

Coast Silktassel
Salal
Brooms

Hebe (veronica) Species/Cultivars
English Ivy
Sunrose
Sea Buckthorn
Ocean Spray
St. Johnswort

Juniper Species

Kerria
Beauty Bush

Lavender Species
Privet Species
Honeysuckle Species
Tree Lupine

Oregon Grape + Cultivars
Longleaf Mahonia
California Holly Grape
Creeping Mahonia
Pacific Wax Myrtle

SHRUBS, VINES, AND GROUNDCOVERS

Scientific Name

Common Name

Osmanthus sp.

Osmanthus Species

Paxistima myrsinites

Oregon Box

Philadelphus lewisii

Western Mock Orange

Phillyrea latifolia

Mock Privet

Photinia x fraseri

Fraser Photinia

Photinia glabra

Japanese Photinia

Physocarpus sp.

Ninebark Species

Polygonum aubertii

Silver Lace Vine

Potentilla fruticosa + cvs.

Shrubby Cinquefoil

Prunus laurocerasus cvs.

Shrubby Cherry Laurels

Pyracantha sp.

Firethorn Species

Quercus sadleriana

Sadler's Oak

Quercus vaccinifolia

Huckleberry Oak

Raphiolepis umbellata

Yeddo Hawthorn

Rhamnus alaternus

Italian Buckthorn

Rhamnus californica

California Coffeeberry

Rhamnus frangula

Alder Buckthorn

Rhodotypos scandens

Jet Bead

Rhus copallina

Shining Sumac

Rhus glabra

Smooth Sumac

Rhus typhina

Staghorn Sumac

Ribes alpinum

Alpine Currant

Ribes aureum

Golden Currant

Ribes sanguineum

Red Flowering Currant

Ribes speciosum

Fuchsia Flowering Gooseberry

Robinia hispida

Rose Acacia

Rosa eglanteria

Eglantine Rose

Rosa harisonii

Harrison's Yellow Rose

Rosa multiflora

Multiflora Rose

Rosa rugosa

Rugosa Rose

Rosmarinus officinalis

Rosemary

Santolina chamaecyparissus

Lavender Cotton

Shepherdia sp.

Buffalo Berries

Spartium junceum

Spanish Broom

Spiraea sp.

Spiraea Species

Stranvaesia davidiana

Photinia

Symphoricarpos sp.

Snowberry Species

Syringa sp.

Lilacs

Tamarix sp.

Tamarisk Species

Taxus sp.

Yews

Teucrium sp.

Germanders

SHRUBS, VINES, AND GROUNDCOVERS

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
Vaccinium ovatum	Evergreen Huckleberry
Vaccinium parvifolium	Red Huckleberry
Viburnum sp.	Virburnums
Vitex agnus-castus	Chaste Tree
Vitus sp.	Grapes
Wisteria sp.	Wisterias
Yucca sp.	Yuccas

Although camellias have never been particularly noted as drought tolerant plants, they do seem to be able to endure much longer periods of water stress than many other popular shrubs and trees used in western Washington. Both *Camellia japonica* and *Camellia sasanqua* appear to possess this virtue, especially when sited in partially shaded environments.

ANNUALS, BIENNIALS, PERENNIALS

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>A, B or P</u>
Achillea sp.	Yarrows	P
Alcea rosea	Hollyhock	B
Alyssum sp.	Alyssums	P
Amaryllis belladonna	Belladonna Lily	P
Aquilegia sp.	Columbines	P
Arctotheca calendula	Cape Weed	A
Arctotis sp.	African Daisies	A
Argemone sp.	Prickly Poppies	A
Armeria sp.	Thrifts, Sea Pinks	P
Artemisia sp.	Wormwoods	P
Baptisia australis	False Indigo	P
Brodiaea sp.	Brodiaeas	P
Catananche caerulea	Cupid's Dart	P
Centaurea sp.	Cornflower, Sweet Sultan	A
Chrysanthemum frutescens	Marguerite	A
Chrysanthemum parthenium	Feverfew	P
Cleome spinosa	Spider Flower	A
Coreopsis sp.	Coreoposis	A & P
Cortaderia seloana	Pampas Grass	P
Cosmos sp.	Cosmos	A
Cynoglossum amabile	Chinese Forget-Me-Not	B
Cynoglossum grande	Western Hound's Tongue	P
Dianthus barbarus	Sweet William	A & B
Dianthus plumarius	Cottage Pink	P
Dimorphotheca sp.	Cape Marigolds	A
Epimedium sp.	Epimediums	P

ANNUALS, BIENNIALS, PERENNIALS

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>A, B or P</u>
Erigeron glaucus	Beach Aster	P
Erysimum sp.	Wallflowers	A & P
Eschscholtzia californica	California Poppy	A & P
Fragaria chiloensis	Sand Strawberry	P
Gaillardia sp.	Blanket Flowers	A & P
Gerbera jamesonii	Transvaal Daisy	A
Gomphrena globosa	Globe Amaranth	A
Gysophila paniculata	Baby's Breath	P
Helichrysum bracteatum	Strawflower	A
Helleborus lividus corsicus	Corsican Hellebore	P
Helleborus orientalis	Lenten Rose	P
Hemerocallis sp. + cvs.	Daylilies	P
Iris foetidissima	Gladwin Iris	P
Iris sp.	Bearded Irises	P
Iris sp.	Pacific Coast Species	P
Kniphofia uvaria	Red Hot Poker	P
Kochia scoparia	Summer Cypress	A
Layia platyglossa	Tidytips	A
Liatris sp.	Gayfeathers	P
Limonium sp.	Sea Lavenders	A & P
Linaria sp.	Toadflaxes	A & P
Linum sp.	Flax	A & P
Lithodora diffusa	Lithodora	P
Lobularia maritima	Sweet Alyssum	A
Lotus berthelotti	Parrot's Beak	A
Marrubium vulgare	Horehound	P
Narcissus sp.	Daffodils	P
Oenothera sp.	Evening Primroses	B & P
Origanum sp.	Marjorams	P
Osteospermum sp.	African Daisies	A
Papaver sp.	Poppies	A & P
Perlargonium sp.	Geraniums	A
Pennisetum selaceum	Fountain Grass	P
Phlomis fruticosa	Jerusalem Sage	P
Phlox drummondii	Annual Phlox	A
Portulaca grandiflora	Moss Rose	A
Potentilla sp.	Cinquefoils	P

ANNUALS, BIENNIALS, PERENNIALS

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>A, B or P</u>
Romneya coulteri	Matilija Poppy	P
Rudbeckia sp.	Coneflowers	A, B & P
Salvia sp.	Sages	A & P
Sedum sp.	Stonecrops	P
Sempervivum sp.	Houseleeks	P
Senecio cineraria	Dusty Miller	A & P
Sisyrinchium sp.	Blue & Yellow-eyed Grasses	P
Thymus sp.	Thymes	P
Tropaeolum sp.	Nasturtiums	A & P
Verbascum sp.	Mulleins	B
Verbena sp.	Verbenas	A & P
Vinca Rosea	Madagascar Periwinkle	A
Yucca sp.	Yuccas	P
Zauscheria sp.	California Fuchsias	P