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**Grow Drought Tolerant Plants In Full Sun Gardens**

**By Bill Watson**

Drought Tolerant Plants

Areas of your garden that face West or South naturally tend to be much hotter and receive much more direct sunlight.

Taking a little time to choose the right plants for these demanding growing conditions can help save you time, money, and water, as well as improve your overall results.

Most plants will require more water under high heat/sun conditions unless they're native to one of the desert regions, or when established, tend to be drought tolerant.

A deep watering program in high heat areas can help conserve water, and still promote healthy, vigorous growth.

Tip: Young plants, or fresh plantings, will require time to grow into their drought tolerant status. Root systems need time to expand and become established, and that length of time will depend in general upon plant type, variety, and the watering method you choose to employ.

**Mulch**

Adding a thick layer of clean mulch on your garden beds, will help to conserve moisture, and protect a plants roots from temperature extremes. Ground bark, straw, or compost, are some of the organic materials used for mulching.

Apply a 1 to 2 inch thick layer of mulch on top of the soil and around plants. A mulch can be applied at any time during the growing season, however, mulching early in the season, just after preparing the soil and planting, will provide the most benefit.

South facing walls or fences tend to absorb and reflect intense solar heat, and so will add to theses demanding conditions.

## Grow Drought Tolerant Plants In Full Sun Gardens

One method used to offset this situation, is to train heat-resistant vines to grow and cover, south or west facing walls, and so prevent the sun's heat from being absorbed and reflected into the garden.

Another option, is to provide small areas of shade throughout the hottest areas of your yard. Planting small garden trees or dwarf varieties suitable to your local region, will tend to moderate temperature extremes within their local areas.

Not all heat-resistant plants are drought-tolerant. Most annuals will require at least 1 inch of water per week. Drought-tolerant plants, in general, will have deeper root systems, and due to their natural environment, have developed the ability to thrive under low moisture conditions.

The following, are examples of the most successful and widely available plants that are heat resistant:

Annuals: Zinnias, Marigolds, China Asters and Salvias.

Vines: Bougainvillea (all), Hibbertia scandens (Guinea Gold Vine), Rosa (climbing), Wisteria.

Shrubs: Calliandra, Callistemon (Bottlebrush), Hibiscus rosa-sinensis, Lantana, Pyracantha.

Trees: Citrus (all), Fig (edible), Magnolia grandiflora, Prunus caroliniana (Carolina laurel Cherry), Pyrus (Ornamental Pear).

Also, most herbs tend to thrive under high heat and light conditions. Examples of these would include, Lavender, Rosemary, and Sage to name a few.

Drought tolerant plants are excellent choices for areas and regions that receive little rain, and are well-suited for areas with high heat and light conditions.

The following, are widely available examples of drought tolerant plants:

Annuals & Perennials: Achillea (Yarrow), Aloe, Coreopsis, Gaillardia (all), Portulaca grandiflora (Rose Moss), Salvias, Verbena.

Vines: Bougainvillea, Wisteria.

Shrubs: Acacia (many), Callistemon citrinus (Lemon Bottlebrush), Crassula argentea (Jade Plant), Lagerstroemia indica (Crape Myrtle), Lantana.

Trees: Acacia (many), Eucalyptus (most), Fig (edible), Walnut.

Taking time to choose plants that suit your local environment or growing conditions, will help to ensure positive results and provide a healthy landscape that will thrive for many years to come.

Good Luck and Happy Gardening!

With over 20 years of gardening and landscaping experience, Bill now shares his tips and advice on creating and maintaining lush and healthy home gardens. Visit his website at

<http://www.your-healthy-gardens.com/>

### **What Is Xeriscaping?**

**By Jackson Porter**

Xeriscaping is a low maintenance form of gardening with drought resistant plants. It is low maintenance as you don't have to go out everyday and tend to your plants and water them. It is also better for environmental conservation as your garden will not require inordinate amounts of water. This is a great solution if you don't have the time to maintain a lush garden or if you live in a region which does not receive much rainfall. Leave it to the beautiful state of Colorado to have created and really innovated Xeriscaping.

Xeros is Greek for dry and this landscape method was introduced during a period of Colorado drought. The key to maintaining a great looking, low water landscape is to use plants native to the area that require little water. Colorado offers many free Xeriscaping classes as part of its water conservation efforts. Other areas that are subject to drought have followed in Colorado's footsteps and many now offer classes as well. Attend any local classes you can in order to get advice on the specific plants to use in your area. In case you were worried your options will not be limited to the cactus family.

Although Xeriscaping may sound similar to zero scaping, one does not need to resort to a yard of nothing but rocks to implement it. You can still have a pretty yard when utilizing Xeriscaping methods.

To start Xeriscaping your yard you should first look to plants that are low maintenance, require a low amount of water, and ideally are native to your area. Plant placement is also important. You want to group plants that require about the same amount of water together. You also want to plant in the areas of your yards that are protected from extreme sun or wind.

Xeriscaping is not about depriving yourself and your yard. It is just the opposite, instead of looking to the greener grass on the other side of the fence (or state line) you can use this method to adapt and work with the best natural plants and flowers for your region and just think of all the time you will save as well.

Jackson Porter is a staff writer at

<http://homegardenenthusiast.com>

and is an occasional contributor to

several other websites, including

<http://www.environmental-central.com>



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