

Plants for Low Water Use

It isn't just cacti, succulents, or narrow leafed evergreens that are adapted to low moisture requirements. Many plants found growing in coastal or mountainous regions around the world have developed mechanisms for dealing with clay, rocky, or excessively well-drained soils as well as the vast temperature variations we have in our area.

A few of the flowers adapted to low water conditions:

- Alyssum (aurinia spp.)
- Artemisia spp.
- Anise Hyssop (Agastache spp.)
- Black Eyed Susan
- Blanket Flower (gailardia grandiflora)
- Blanket flower (Gailardia spp.)
- Blue Flax (linum perenne) native
- Broom (Cytisus spp.)
- California poppy (Eschscholzia californica)
- Cinquefoil (potentilla)
- Coral Bells (heuchera spp)
- Cornflower (centaurea spp)
- Creeping phlox (phlox subulata)
- Crocus spp.
- Evening primrose (oenothera spp.)
- Evening primrose (Oenothera biennis)
- Forget me not (myosotis sylvatica)
- Hollyhock (alcea rosea)
- Iris spp.
- Jupiter's Beard (centranthus ruber)
- Lady's mantle (alchemilla spp)
- Lamb's Earr (stachys byzantina)
- Lavender (Lavendula spp.)
- Lupine (lupinus)
- Moss rose (Portulaca grandiflora)
- Nasturtium (Tropaeolum majus)
- Penstemons
- Poppy
- Russian Sage (perovskia atriplicifolia)
- Sage (Salvia spp.)
- Sedum spp.
- Snow in Summer (cerastium tomentosum)
- Spurge (euphorbia)
- Thyme spp.
- Violets (viola spp)
- Wild Geranium (geranium viscosissimum) native
- Yarrow (Achillea spp.) native

- *Yucca gloriosa*

Many indigenous plants – plants that we find in our region’s mountain hikes or valley floors – will likely do well with limited water in the garden or containers. These species have evolved in our local conditions and usually have well-developed mechanisms for surviving extremes in the weather. Of course, on your hikes, as in your backyard, there are varied zones determined by light, protection and proximity to other elements in the yard. Match appropriate plants to those varied zones to give them the easiest environment to meet their needs so that you may reduce their need for artificial watering.

Some low water decorative grasses:

- *Festuca idahoensis* (native) IDAHO FESCUE
- *Festuca glauca* BLUE FESCUE
- *Helictotrichon sempervirens* BLUE OAT GRASS
- *Phalaris arundinacea picta* RIBBON GRASS

Some shrubs adapted to our conditions:

- *Acer ginnala* GINNALA MAPLE
- *Caragana arborescens* SIBERIAN PEA SHRUB
- *Cornus canadensis* (native) BUNCHBERRY
- *Cornus sericea* (native) REDTWIG DOGWOOD
- *Cotoneaster* spp. COTONEASTER
- *Juniperus* spp. JUNIPER
- *Philadelphus lewisii* (native) MOCKORANGE
- *Prunus virginiana* (native) CHOKECHERRY
- *Rhus* spp. SUMAC
- *Rhibes alpinum* ALPINE CURRENT
- *Potentilla fruticosa* POTENTILLA
- *Rosa rugosa* RUGOSA ROSE
- *Rosa woodsii* (native) WOODS ROSE
- *Salix exigua* (native) COYOTE WILLOW
- *Symphoricarpos alba* (native) SNOWBERRY
- *Syringa vulgaris* COMMON PURPLE LILAC

All plants will require more water in their first year or two to adapt to their new planting. Reduce watering in their second year and more drastically after that.