

## **Drought Tolerant Plants**

#### - For Northwest Kansas

Growing plants in Northwest Kansas can be a challenge at times, but add drought to the equation and the challenge becomes even greater! Following is a list of drought tolerant plants that have shown to do well throughout the area during times of drought. This list, which was compiled from K-State Research and Extension publications, agents, and specialists as well as local gardeners, is certainly not all-inclusive; but is a place to start when thinking about what plants to choose for NW Kansas landscapes. *Remember, drought tolerant does not mean plant it and forget it...All plants require moisture to become established!* 

#### Large Deciduous Trees (over 45')

American Elm

Bur Oak

Chinkapin Oak

Hackberry

Honeylocust

Kentucky Coffeetree

#### **Medium Deciduous Trees (30-45')**

Goldenraintree

Lacebark Elm

Osage Orange (thornless & fruitless)

Sawtooth Oak

#### **Small Deciduous Trees (under 30')**

Flowering Crabapple (disease resistant)

Redbud

Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn

Washington Hawthorn

Winter King Hawthorn

#### **Evergreen Trees**

Eastern Red Cedar

Junipers (avoid *J. scopulorum* cultivars)

Ponderosa Pine

Pinyon Pine

#### **Large Deciduous Shrubs (over 8')**

Beauty Bush

**Boarder Privet** 

Lilac (Common and Chinese)

Gray Dogwood

Ninebark

**Peking Cotoneaster** 

Rose of Sharon

Roughleaf Dogwood

Snowball Bush Viburnum

Staghorn Sumac

Vanhoutte Spirea

#### Medium Deciduous Shrubs (4-8')

**Butterfly Bush** 

Flowering Quince

Forsythia

Fragrant Sumac

Golden Currant

Barberry (Japanese and Mentor)

Mockorange

Meyer's Lilac (also sold as Korean Lilac)

Snowmound Spirea

**Spreading Cotoneaster** 

#### **Small Deciduous Shrubs (under 4')**

Alpine Currant

Bluemist (also sold as Bluemist Spirea)

Bumald Spirea Chenault Coralberry Crimson Pygmy Barberry

Gro Low Sumac

Indian currant Coralberry
Japanese Flowering Quince

Kobold Barberry

Snowberry

Saint John's Wort (i.e. 'Blue Velvet')

#### **Evergreen Shrubs**

Junipers (avoid *J. scopulorum* cultivars)

#### **Perennial Flowers**

Aster

Monarda (i.e. Bee Balm)

Butterfly Weed Chrysanthemum

Coreopsis (Tickseed)

Daylily
Dianthus
Gaillardia

Garden Phlox Iris

Lamb's Ear

Purple Coneflower

Russian Sage

Black-eyed Susan

Salvia

Peony

Sedum ('Autumn Joy')

Shasta Daisy Spiderwort

Yarrow

#### **Annual Flowers**

Ageratum

Celosia

Cosmos

Gaillardia

Geranium

Gomphrena

Lantana

Marigold

Petunia

Portulaca

Fortulaca

Rudbeckia

Salvia

Snapdragon

Verbena

Zinnia

#### **Herbs**

Artemisia

Basil

Germander

Horehound

Hollyhock

Lavender

Lemon Balm

Marjoram

Motherwort

Oregano

Sage

Thyme

#### **Ornamental Grasses**

Big Blue Stem

Blue Fescue ('Elijia Blue', etc.)

Feather Reed Grass ('Karl Forester')

Fountain Grass ('Alopecurus', etc.)

Hardy Pampas ('Ravennae')

Indiangrass

**Porcupine Grass** 

Sideoats Grama

Switchgrass ('Northwind', etc.)

#### Groundcovers

Hen and Chicks
Lirope ('Big Blue')
Mother of Thyme
Perennial Geranium
Periwinkle
Sedum, Creeping (Stonecrop)
Sweet William

#### Turf

Buffalograss Bermudagrass

As mentioned previously, this is not an all-inclusive list, but a place to start when choosing plants for NW Kansas landscapes.

### Remember, drought tolerant does not mean "plant it and forget it"!

All plants require moisture to get established and depending on the plant, this establishment period could take up to two years or more.

For more information on water conserving landscapes or if you have questions regarding water conservation in general please contact the Ellis County Extension Office at (785) 628-9430 or check out our website: <a href="www.ellis.ksu.edu">www.ellis.ksu.edu</a>. You can also find us on Facebook under K-State Research and Extension – Ellis County.

#### **Additional Resources/Publications:**

Deciduous Shrubs for Kansas (MF-3116)

Evergreen Shrubs for Kansas (MF-3117)

Low Water Use Plants for Kansas Landscapes (MF-2067)

Ornamental Grasses (MF-3048)

Prairie Bloom Perennial Flowers (MF-2772)

Prairie Star Annual Flowers (MF-2769)

Shade and Ornamental Trees for Kansas (MF-2688)

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