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
- Peony
- Purple Coneflower
- Russian Sage
- Black-eyed Susan
- Salvia
- Sedum (‘Autumn Joy’)
- Shasta Daisy
- Spiderwort
- Yarrow

### Annual Flowers
- Ageratum
- Celosia
- Cosmos
- Gaillardia
- Geranium
- Gomphrena
- Lantana
- Marigold
- Petunia
- Portulaca
- 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 (‘Elijah 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: [www.ellis.ksu.edu](http://www.ellis.ksu.edu). 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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Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. All educational programs and materials are available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.