



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
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 ('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: 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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