SUGGESTED WATER-WISE PLANTS FOR XERISCAPE GARDENING

adapted from Sunset Western Garden Book Zone 7

Credits and References:
Waterwise Gardening, Melissa Gebhardt, UCCE Marin County http://cemarin.ucdavis.edu
Lake County Natives (monograph), Karen Sullivan (undated)
Ornamental Trees; An Illustrated Guide to their Selection and Care, Evelyn Maino and Frances Howard, University of California Press (1955)
Water-Conserving Plants and Landscapes for the Bay Area, East Bay Municipal Utility District (1990)

Compiled and edited by:
Karin Armstrong, UC Master Gardener, Lake County
Rachel Elkins, Master Gardener Advisor, UCCE Lake County

Reviewed by:
Pam Geisel, Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator
Lorence Oki, Landscape Horticulture Specialist, UC Davis
Karen Robb, Farm Advisor/County Director, UCCE Mariposa County

November 2007

Day lily (Hemerocallis spp.)
Delphinium (Delphinium spp.)
Flax (Linum spp.)
Gaillardia (Gaillardia spp.)
Garden Phlox (Phlox spp.)
Gayfeather (Liatris spp.)
Golden Glow (Rudbeckia laciniata)
Iceland Poppy (Papaver nudicaule)
Lupine (Lupinus spp.)
Matilija Poppy (Romneya coulteri)
Oriental Poppy (Papaver orientale)
Paper Flower (Bougainvillea spp.)
Penstemon (selected Penstemon spp.)
Peony (Paeonia spp.)
Pincushion Flower (Scabiosa spp.)
Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea)
Sedum, Stonecrop (Sedum spp.)
Shasta Daisy (Chrysanthemum maximum)
Sulphur Flower (Eriogonum umbellatum)
Sweet William (Dianthus barbatus)
Yarrow (Achillea spp.)

Ornamental Grasses

Big Bluestem (Andropogon gerardii)
Blue Oat Grass (Helictotrichon sempervirens)
California Fescue (Festuca californica)
Deer Grass (Muhlenbergia rigens)
Flax (Linum spp.)
Mosquito Grass (Bouteloua gracilis)
Switch Grass (Panicum virgatum L.)
What is Xeriscape Gardening?

Xeriscape gardens are designed to use water efficiently while creating beautiful landscapes. Plants are grouped with others that have similar water needs: low water use (xeric) plants are in hot, dry, south-facing areas and moisture lovers face north and east. Emphasis is on plants that thrive in wet winters and dry summers. Lawn area is reduced or eliminated or may include native grasses. Patios, decks, and paths also reduce planted area.

Compost and mulch are used to conserve water and add organic matter. Water is applied with drip or soaker hoses. Properly planned and maintained landscapes save water, time and money, and reduce pesticide use and runoff. Habitat for birds and beneficial insects (pollinators, natural enemies) can also be created.

The following plants are suggested to help gardeners get started creating beautiful water-saving landscapes. Consult other sources for further suggestions. It is important to remember that growth of any plant will vary under different soil, climate, and care conditions.

Trees

California Buckeye (Aesculus californica)
California Redbud (Cercis occidentalis or orbiculata)
Common Hackberry (Celtis occidentalis)
Deodora Cedar (Cedrus deodara)
Foothill Ash (Fraxinus dipetala)
Incense Cedar (Calocedrus decurrens)
Madrone (Arbutus menziesii)
Oaks (Quercus spp.)
Western Catalpa (Catalpa speciosa)

Shrubs

Apache Plume (Fallugia paradoxa)
Carpenteria (Carpenteria californica)
Ceanothus (Ceanothus spp.)
Cinquefoil (Potentilla spp.)
Cotoneaster (Cotoneaster spp.)
Flannel Bush (Fremontodendron spp.)
Juniper spp. (Juniperus spp.)
Manzanita spp. (Arctostaphylos spp.)
Mountain Mahogany (Cercocarpus spp.)
Redbud (Cercis spp.)
Rhamnus (Coffeeberry) (Rhamnus spp.)
Rockrose (Cistus spp.)
Rock Spirea (Holodisus dumosus)
Sage (Salvia spp.)
Silver Buffaloberry (Shepherdia argentea)
Smooth Sumac (Rhus glabra)
Sugar Bush (Rhus ovata)
Toyon (Christmas Berry) (Heteromeles arbutifolia)
Yucca (Yucca spp.)

Ground Covers for Sun

Blue Fescue (Festuca ovina var. glauca)
Ceanothus (Ceanothus spp.)
Cushion Spurge (Euphorbia polychroma)
Houseleek, Hen and Chickens (Sempervivum spp.)
Juniper spp. (Juniperus spp.)
Lavender-Cotton (Santolina chamaecyparissus)
Mock Strawberry (Duchesnea indica)
Penstemon (selected Penstemon spp.)
Pussytoes (Antennaria spp.)
Sage (Salvia spp.)
Snow-In-Summer (Cerastium tomentosum)
Stonecrop (Sedum spp.)
Sulphur Flower (Eriogonum umbellatum)
Tall Fescue (Festuca arundinacea)
Thyme (Thymus spp.)
Woolly Yarrow (Achillea tomentosa)

Ground Covers for Shade

Creeping Oregon Grape (Mahonia spp.)
Lily-of-the-Valley (Convallaria majalis)
Penstemon (selected Penstemon spp.)

Perennials for Sun

Aster (Aster spp.)
Bearded Iris (Iridaceae spp.)
Black-Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta)
Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa)
Cactus (Cactaceae spp.)
Coreopsis (Coreopsis spp.)
Cornflower (Centaurea cyanus)