



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

Plant choices for “hot and dry”



With my second full season under way I have learned one of my top priorities is water. When to water, what to water, how to water, water water water... But what about those who prefer dry feet?

If you can picture our perennial lot you will see all sorts of beauties intermixed and cohabitating. Some need extra water, some need very little. It would be easy if one half of the lot was hot and dry and one lush and wet but as luck would have it, it is up to me to master the irrigation of the lot. And I have a lot to master. The lot can be tough and undesirable for some plants with debris, wind, and a hot black mat. If it was mid July I could easily say whatever was left green and in bloom would be a great choice!

As I am learning this art of irrigating, I can already see what choices would be good for hot and dry locations.

There are always the tried and true that are faithful year after year – Rudbeckia, Sedum, Nepeta, Salvia, Perovskia, and with all kinds of cultivars the choices are endless.

But what about a little something different? Or a choice you hadn't considered? Papaver for a early spring bloom. How about Achillea, upright, fluffy, and soft pretty colors blooming in summer. Iris germanica, too much water and you could rot the roots (Believe me, I know). Liliiums, Gaillardia, Artemisia, Phlox paniculata, Lavender, and Hosta (once established) are also nice alternatives for a dry location.

If you are in search of ground cover, low growing Epimedium looks good around trees for hot and shady spots. Choose Thyme for true low cover, or Delosperma for drought resistant and adorable little daisy like flowers

If you are looking for a Ornamental grass seek out any Pennistum. We have many different varieties and heights to choose from.

So maybe you want something really different? Kim's favorite on the lot is Erigeron 'Sea Breeze'. Durable, doesn't like fertilizer, and likes a dry root. Another to check out is the Eryngium 'Blue Hobbit', spikey and thorny they produce shoots upward with blue flowers. Or consider Echinops 'Blue Glow' Globe Thistle, very cool foliage. I will end with a note on the Thistle – Even though they like it hot and dry they still like a bit of water. Every now and then, while we have plenty to choose from on the lot there is also a group in recovery. I'm learning...



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[***Return to Archive***](#)

