



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

TREES TOLERANT OF DROUGHT

For any plant to survive a drought it first must be established and healthy. Even the most drought tolerant species should be provided supplemental watering for the first two or three years after planting.

High temperatures, wind, reflected light and heat from nearby surfaces, and high fertilization can magnify the damage caused by less than adequate moisture. An established plant that is provided with appropriate growing conditions should be able to survive a moderate period of limited moisture, however, drought tolerance does not necessarily indicate that a plant prefers heat, or that it will not exhibit some negative effect from extended drought.

Here are some tree varieties that tolerate drought better than most.

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| <i>Acer campestre</i> * | Hedge Maple | <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> | Hop Hornbeam |
| <i>Acer ginnala</i> | Amur Maple | <i>Phellodendron amurense</i> | Amur Corktree |
| <i>Acer rubrum</i> * | Red maple | <i>Picea pungens</i> * | Colorado Spruce |
| <i>Aesculus pavia</i> | Red Buckeye | <i>Pinus aristata</i> | Bristlecone Pine |
| <i>Betula nigra</i> * | River Birch | <i>Pinus bungeana</i> | Lacebark Pine |
| <i>Carpinus</i> ssp. | Hornbeam | <i>Pinus cembra</i> | Swiss Stone Pine |
| <i>Catalpa speciosa</i> | Northern Catalpa | <i>Pinus nigra</i> | Austrian Pine |
| <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> * | Hackberry | <i>Pinus strobus</i> | Eastern White Pine |
| <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | Eastern Redbud | <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> | Scotch Pine |
| <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> | Fringetree | <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> * | Callery Pear |
| <i>Cladrastis kentukea</i> | American Yellowwood | <i>Quercus acutissima</i> * | Sawtooth Oak |
| <i>Cotinus</i> ssp. | Smoketree | <i>Quercus alba</i> | White Oak |
| <i>Crataegus</i> ssp.* | Hawthorn | <i>Quercus coccinea</i> | Scarlet Oak |
| <i>Eucommia ulmoides</i> * | Hardy Rubber Tree | <i>Quercus imbricaria</i> | Shingle Oak |
| <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> * | Ginkgo | <i>Quercus lyrata</i> | Overcup Oak |
| <i>Gleditsia species</i> * | Honeylocust | <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> * | Bur Oak |
| <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> * | Kentucky Coffeetree | <i>Quercus palustris</i> | Pin Oak |
| <i>Juniperus</i> ssp. * | Juniper | <i>Quercus phellos</i> * | Willow Oak |
| <i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> * | Goldenraintree | <i>Quercus shumardii</i> * | Shumard Oak |
| <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> * | American sweetgum | <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> | Black Locust |
| <i>Malus</i> ssp. | Crabapple | <i>Taxodium distichum</i> | Baldcypress |
| <i>Morus</i> spp. | Mulberry | <i>Tilia tomentosa</i> * | Silver Linden |
| <i>Nyssa</i> ssp. | Blackgum | <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> * | Chinese Elm |
| | | <i>Zelkova serrata</i> * | Japanses Zelkova |

* Good choices for hot sites. The trees listed below, while not as drought tolerant, are also good for hot sites.

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| <i>Acer x freemanii</i> | Freeman Hybrid Maple | <i>Quercus bicolor</i> | Swamp White Oak |
| <i>Acer platanoides</i> | Norway Maple | <i>Quercus robur</i> | English Oak |
| <i>Acer saccharum</i> | Sugar Maple | <i>Quercus rubra</i> (borealis) | Northern Red Oak |
| <i>Aesculus x carnea</i> 'Brioti' | Red Horsechestnut | <i>Tilia cordata</i> | Littleleaf Linden |
| <i>Betula platyphylla</i> | Aisan White Birch | <i>Ulmus</i> x 'Homestead' | 'Homestead' Hybrid Elm |
| <i>Carya ovata</i> | Shagbark Hickory | <i>Ulmus</i> x 'Pioneer' | 'Pioneer' Hybrid Elm |
| <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> | London Planetree | <i>Ulmus</i> x 'Urban' | 'Urban' Hybrid Elm |