

A Water-wise Garden Makeover
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The seasons have changed. This is an excellent time to take inventory of your garden layouts. Remember summer watering? Dragging hoses? Don't forget water costs and noble attempts at water conservation. Planting drought tolerant plants in full sun areas and moving water-needy species closer to the water source makes sense. The list of drought tolerant plants is long and varied, but here are few examples.

Plants with grey, silver or grayish blue or green (AKA glaucous) leaves help the plant reflect heat and light. Included in this group are: *Eryngium giganteum* (Miss Willmott's ghost), *Artemisia*, *Astellia*, Dusty miller, Yarrow, *Salvia*, *Stacysbyzantina* (Lamb's ear) and Thyme. An example of a glaucous plant is *Festuca glauca* (Elijah Blue).

Hairy or wooly surfaces allow plants to conserve water and also reflect light: *Ballota pseudodictamnus*, *Salvia officinalis*, *Cynara cardunculous*, *Stachys byzantina* (Lamb's ear).

Succulents or plants with fleshy foliage are efficient water conservers as well. Sedums, aloe vera and most *Euphorbia* (fleshy stems instead of foliage) are the ticket into a water-wise garden.

Strangely enough, the oils from plants with aromatic scents increase air density around the plant which decreases water evaporation. Plants included in this water-wise group are: Lavender, Rosemary, Catmint, Yarrow, *Agastache*, Russian Sage, *Calamintha* and *Artemisia*.

Small leaves and needle-like leaves also reduce water evaporation. *Hebe*, *Ceanothus*, Thyme, Rockrose and *Dianthus* have small and efficient leaves. Plants with needle-like leaves include: conifers, rosemary and lavender.

Is your yard due for a makeover? Think ahead. Save Water. Combine various textures, sizes and shapes of drought tolerant plants to reinvent your garden.