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Drought Tolerant Plants for the Montana Landscape *produced by the MNLA Education Committee*

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The characteristic of drought tolerance is one that is subject to a variety of factors. Average annual precipitation, soil type, snow cover (or the lack there of), and proper establishment will all impact a plants ability to survive periods of drought. The following is a list of plants that are **generally** suitable for use in water conserving landscapes in Montana. Species with invasive potential have been noted and referenced. They should be used with caution. This list is intended as a general guide. The species listed cover a range of drought tolerance. They are not rated as to their individual water requirements. More information as to specific preferences of each species can be found in the references listed. The right plant in the right place greatly increases survival. Plants may drop off the list or new species will be added as they are tried and found hardy. There are often multiple varieties and cultivars of a particular species that are relatively equal in drought tolerance to the species. The list is intended to include these cultivars unless otherwise specified.

Trees

Latin name	Common Name	Mature Height	Zone
Acer ginnala	Amur Maple	15-20'	3
Acer negundo	Boxelder Maple	30'	3
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	50-60'	4
* Listed as a noxious weed in Ravalli County. See #1 below.			
Acer tataricum	Tatarian Maple	20-25'	3
Aesculus glabra	Ohio Buckeye	20-40'	3
Catalpa speciosa	Northern Catalpa	50-60'	4
Celtis occidentalis	Common Hackberry	50-75'	2
Crataegus x mordenensis	Toba Hawthorn	12-15'	3
Crataegus douglasii	Douglas Hawthorn	8-20'	3
Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian Olive	20'	2
*listed as a noxious weed in several western states, high invasive potential. See #2 below.			
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	Green Ash	50-60'	2-4
Gleditsia triacanthos inermis	Thornless Honeylocust	35-45'	3-4
Juglans nigra	Black Walnut	80'+	4
Juglans cinerea	Butternut	40-60'	3
Juniperus scopulorum	Rocky Mountain Juniper	20'+	3
Juniperus virginiana	Eastern Redcedar	30'	3

Maackii amurensis 'Summertime'	Amur Maackia	18-20'	3
Malus 'Dolgo'	Dolgo Crab	35-40'	2
Malus baccata	Siberian crabapple	30'	2
Picea glauca densata	Black Hills Spruce	35-45'	2
Pinus aristata	Bristlecone Pine	20'	4
Pinus contorta v. latifolia	Lodgepole Pine	60'	4
Pinus edulis	Pinyon Pine	10-20'	3
Pinus flexilis	Limber Pine	40-60'	4
Pinus nigra	Austrian Pine	50'	4
Pinus ponderosa	Ponderosa Pine	80'	3
Pinus sylvestris	Scotch Pine	60'	3
Populus alba	Silver Poplar	80'	3
Prunus manscuriana	Manchurian Apricot	15'-20'	3
Prunus americana	American Plum	15-20	3
Prunus maackii	Amur Chokecherry	20-30'	2
Prunus virginiana	Common Chokecherry	20-25'	2
'Shubert'	Canada Red Cherry	20-25'	2
Pyrus spp.	Ure Pear	25'	3
Pyrus ussuriensis 'Mordak'	Prairie Gem Pear	18-25'	3
Quercus alba	White Oak	60-80'	3
Quercus macrocarpa	Bur Oak	60-80'	3
Quercus gambelii	Gambel or Scrub Oak	6-30'	3
Robinia pseudoacacia	Black Locust	50'	3
	*invasive in many locations, ex: the Clearwater River - Idaho. See #3 below		
Syringa reticulata	Japanese Tree Lilac	25'	3
Tilia cordata	Littleleaf Linden	35-45'	4
Ulmus 'Brandon'	Brandon Elm	50'	3
Ulmus 'Homestead'	Homestead Elm	60'	4
Ulmus 'Morton Plainsman'	Vanguard Elm	40-50'	3
Ulmus davidiana var. japonica	Discovery Elm	35-40'	3
Ulmus pumila	Siberian Elm	40-50'	4
	* invasive in many locations. See #4 below		

Shrubs

Acer ginnala	Amur Maple	15-20'	3
Acer glabrum	Rocky Mountain Maple	8-15'	4
Amelanchier alnifolia	Saskatoon Serviceberry	4-6'	2
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Kinnikinnick	2-8"	2
Aronia melanocarpa	Glossy Black Chokeberry	4-6'	3
Artemesia cana	Silver Sagebrush	3-4'	3
Artemesia frigida	Fringed Sage	1-2'	3
Artemesia tridentata	Mountain Big Sagebrush	3-6'	3

<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	Four-wing Saltbrush	6'	4
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese Barberry	2'	4
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Siberian Peashrub	12-15'	2
'Pendula' 'Walker'	Weeping Caragana	5'	2
<i>Caragana frutex</i>	Russian Caragana	8'	2
'Globosa'	Globe Caragana	2-3'	2
<i>Caragana pygmaea</i>	Pygmy Caragana	3'	3
<i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i>	Blue Mist Spirea	3'	5
<i>Ceanothus velutinosus</i>	Snowbrush	2-5'	3
<i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i>	Curl-leaf Mtn. Mahogany	8-15'	4
<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>	Mountain Mahogany	5-10'	3
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	Rubber Rabbitbrush	4'	3
<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>	Green Rabbitbrush	2-3'	3
<i>Cotinus coggyria</i>	Smokebush	8-10'	4
<i>Cotoneaster adpressus</i>	Spreading Cotoneaster	2'	4
<i>Cotoneaster lucidus</i>	Hedge Cotoneaster	8-10'	2
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle	4'	3
<i>Diervilla sessilifolia</i>	'Butterfly' Dwarf. Honeysuckle	3-5'	4
<i>Elaeagnus commutata</i>	Silverberry	6'	3-4
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Wintercreeper	1'	5
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Winged Burning Bush	10'	3
<i>Forsythia</i> 'Meadowlark'	Meadowlark Forsythia	8'	3
<i>Genista lydia</i>	Broom, Woadwaxen	12-18"	6
<i>Genista pilosa</i>	Broom, Woadwaxen	2-3'	3
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Royal Gold Woadwaxen	1-2'	4
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Sea Buckthorn	10-25'	4
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	Chinese Juniper	varies	3-4
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	3-5'	3-4
<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	Creeping Juniper	1'	3-4
<i>Juniperus sabina</i>	Savin Juniper	1-3'	3-4
<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>	Winterfat	2-3'	3
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tartarian Honeysuckle	6-8'	3
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Dwarf Honeysuckle	3-6'	3-4
<i>Lonicera xylosteoides</i>	'MiniGlobe' Honeysuckle	3-4'	3
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Creeping Oregon Grape	1'	4
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Mockorange, Syringa	4-5'	3
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Eastern Ninebark	4-8'	2-3
<i>Physocarpus malvaceus</i>	Ninebark	3-5'	3
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Potentilla/Cinquefoil	2-3'	2

Prunus besseyi	Western Sandcherry	5-6'	3
Prunus tomentosa	Nanking Cherry	8-10'	2
Purshia tridentata	Antelope Bitterbrush	2-3'	4
Rhamnus frangula	Buckthorn	5-7'	2
Rhus aromatica	Fragrant Sumac	3'	3
Rhus glabra	Smooth Sumac	10'	3
'Laciniata'	Cutleaf Smooth Sumac	8'	3
Rhus typhina	Staghorn Sumac	10'	3
'Laciniata'	Cutleaf Staghorn Sumac	8'	3
Rhus trilobata	Trilobe, Skunkbrush Sumac	3-6'	3
Ribes alpinum	Alpine Currant	3-5'	2
Ribes aureum	Golden Currant	6'	2
Ribes cereum	Wax Currant	3'	3
Ribes inerme	Gooseberry	3-4'	4
Rosa glauca	Redleaf Rose	5-6'	2
Rosa rugosa	Rugosa Rose	4-6'	2
Rosa woodsii	Woods Rose	3-6'	4
Rosa 'Harrison's Yellow'	Shrub Rose	6'	3
Shepherdia argentea	Silver Buffaloberry	8-12'	2
Shepherdia canadensis	Russet Buffaloberry	3-13'	2
Sorbaria sorbifolia	Ash Leaf Spirea	6'	2
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry	5-6'	3
Syringa vulgaris	Common Lilac	12-15'	2
Syringa vulgaris 'Hybrids'	French Lilac	8-12'	3
Tetradymia canescens	Horsebrush	2'	2
Viburnum lantana	Wayfaringbush	6-10'	3
Viburnum lentago	Nannyberry Viburnum	20'	2

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Invasive References:

#1 Norway Maple: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ACPL>,
<http://www.invasive.org/browse/subject.cfm?sub=3002>

#2 Russian Olive: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/elan1.htm>,
<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html>

Katz, Gabrielle L. and Shafroth, Patrick. *Biology, Ecology, and Management of Eleagnus angustifolia (RussianOlive) in Western North America*. *Wetlands*, Vol.23, No.4, pp763-777, Soc. of Wetland Scientists, Dec. 2003.

#3 Black Locust: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ROPS>,
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/rops1.htm>

#4 Siberian Elm: <http://www.invasive.org/browse/subject.cfm?sub=3479>,
<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html>,
<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ULPU>,
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ulpu1.htm>