

Do one thing differently

Drought tolerant plants...

Matthew Wilson at RHS Harlow Carr in Harrogate talks us through his tips on drought tolerant plants...

Using dry plants means that you can still enjoy a colourful and vibrant garden, even when the weather is hot. And, it reduces the need to use sprinklers or hosepipes which are the biggest users of water in the garden.

So how does it work? Well there are many different ways plants like thyme help to cut transpiration simply by having a reduced surface area through which moisture can escape. Others like geraniums actually dislike wet soil, which makes them ideal for pots and hanging baskets in full sun. Plants with grey and silver leaves are ideal for hot weather because they reflect the sun, while plants with hairy leaves are able to trap any moisture in the air.



Matthew Wilson

Choose plants like cistus, otherwise known as 'rock roses', which have waxy leaves that act like a seal, holding in the water – they are covered in small flowers in mid summer. And don't forget if you are going to water your garden, water with a can early in the morning or late at night to reduce loss of moisture to evaporation.

Need some inspiration?



Choose your favourite drought tolerant plants from the following lists:

Trees:

Mimosa
Silver birch
Hackberry
Osage orange
Pagoda tree

Shrubs:

Dusty miller
Spindle tree
Bush cinquefoil
Common snowberry
Butterfly bush

Climbers/wall-trained shrubs:

Trumpet vine
Japanese honeysuckle
Japanese wisteria
Rock cotoneaster

Conifers:

Pine
Juniper
Cypress

Annuals and bedding:

Calendula
Blue marguerite
Honesty
Swan river daisy

Herbaceous perennials:

Eryngium
Geranium
Autumn joy
Verbascum
Euphorbia

For further ideas why not visit www.rhs.org.uk or take a trip to the **RHS Garden Harlow Carr on Crag Lane, Harrogate, HG3 1QB**