



Hort Notes

An educational newsletter with research-based information for businesses and individuals involved in selling, planning, designing, servicing, and enjoying landscapes and gardens.

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Current Monitoring Checklist:

PLANT PHENOLOGY for April: *BETWEEN 50 - 99 GROWING DEGREE DAYS*

http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact_sheets/ipmtools/50_99_GDD.html

Gardening During Drought

Water has become a critical problem for most Massachusetts communities. As the population and the amount of water used per person continues to increase, and with a continuing deficiency in precipitation, the problem will become more acute. Many towns have already imposed restrictions on outdoor water use. Citizens should be aware of the seriousness of the situation and strive to conserve water at every opportunity. Here are some suggestions for making the most efficient use of limited water supply. For more information, go to www.umassdroughtinfo.org.

GENERAL PRACTICES TO CONSERVE WATER AND PREPARE FOR DROUGHT

- Select drought resistant plants and varieties.
- Work organic matter into the soil.
- Mulch plants.
- Capture water in rain barrels and cisterns; cover top with mosquito netting.
- Use gray water.
- During a water ban, don't prune, fertilize or apply pesticides.

TREES AND SHRUBS

- Once established, trees and shrubs generally need less water than other plantings.
- Avoid heavy feedings; large leaves means more transpiration.
- Water slowly, deeply and infrequently such as at 10-14 day intervals.
- Mulch plants. Add a 2-3 inch deep layer of bark mulch. Do not put mulch against trunks.

- Apply antitranspirants; read label before applying.
- Apply water deeply to newly planted trees and shrubs. Water should penetrate to a soil depth of 10-12 inches. Make additional applications at one week intervals if no rainfall occurs.
- Use drought resistant plants, burlap or lath wind breaks and shading.

FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES

- Select drought tolerant types for drier sites.
- Shelter with wind breaks or fabric until roots are well established.
- Water deeply but infrequently.
- Wide spacing to reduce competition for moisture.
- Mulch plants.
- Use trickle or drip irrigation systems.

LAWNS

- *Mowing* - Set the cutting height on lawn mowers to at least 2 inches. Grass cut at 2-3 inches will develop deeper root systems and will be better able to tolerate drought.
- *Fertilizing* - Avoid early spring high nitrogen fertilizer. Use turf fertilizer with a high percentage of slow release nitrogen.
- *Watering* - Apply one inch of water per week in one application to allow for deep (4-6 inches) penetration of water into soil.
- Leave grass clippings; clippings act as a mulch and recycle nutrients.
- Allow grass to go dormant if water is not available; the turf will green up when conditions improve.
- New lawn construction and repairs: do fall (late August – early September) seeding only and include drought resistant types such as fine fescues in the grass seed mix.

ALLOCATION OF WATER: When water is limited, give priority to the following plants since they have the greatest need for water:

- Newly planted trees and shrubs.
- Newly seeded lawns or lawn areas that have been overseeded or repaired
- Trees and shrubs on sandy or shallow soils, and on sites exposed to sun and wind.
- Vegetables; apply water when crops (tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers etc) are flowering.

Drought Tolerant Plants for the Landscape

The plants listed below are among those that have been shown to be drought tolerant. However, any plant, regardless of how drought tolerant it may be, will require supplemental watering during its period of establishment in the landscape. Other factors that will impact success of establishment include: location, correct planting procedures, soil type and preparation. To download this list to reproduce for your customers, go to www.umassdroughtinfo.org.

DECIDUOUS TREES

Acer griseum - Paperbark maple
Carpinus caroliniana - American hornbeam
Cornus kousa - Kousa dogwood
Cotinus obovatus - American smoketree
Crataegus phaenopyrum - Washington hawthorn
Ginkgo biloba - Ginkgo
Halesia tetraptera - Carolina silverbells
Koelreuteria paniculata - Goldenraintree
Liquidambar styraciflua - American sweetgum
Magnolia x loebneri - Loebner hybrid magnolia
Malus spp. - Crabapple
Platanus x acerifolia - London planetree
Quercus spp. - Oak, many species
Sophora japonica - Japanese pagodatree
Tilia spp. - Linden
Ulmus parvifolia - Lacebark elm
Zelkova serrata - Japanese zelkova

SHRUBS

Aesculus parvifolia - Bottlebrush buckeye
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi - Bearberry
Aronia spp. - Chokeberry
Buddleia davidii - Butterfly bush
Calluna spp. - Heather
Chaenomeles x superba - Japanese flowering quince
Clethra alnifolia - Sweet pepperbush
Comptonia peregrina - Sweetfern
Cornus mas - Corneliancherry dogwood
Cotinus coggygria - Smokebush
Cotoneaster spp. - Cotoneaster
Erica spp. - Heath
Exochorda racemosa - Pearlbush
Forsythia sp. - Forsythia
Hydrangea paniculata - Panicle hydrangea
Hypericum prolificum - Shrubby St. John's wort
Itea virginica - Virginia sweetspire
Myrica pensylvanica - Bayberry
Philadelphus coronarius - Mockorange
Physocarpus opulfolius - Ninebark
Potentilla fruticosa - Bush cinquefoil
Rhus spp. (*aromatica*, *copallina*, *typhus*) - Ornamental sumac

Rosa rugosa - Saltspray rose
Rosa virginiana - Virginia rose
Spirea spp. - Spirea, many species
Syringa spp. - Lilac
Vaccinium angustifolium - Lowbush blueberry
Viburnum dentatum - Arrowwood

EVERGREENS

Abies concolor - White fir
Cedrus atlantica - Atlas cedar
Cephalotaxus harringtonia - Japanese plum yew
Chamaecyparis pisifera - Sawara false cypress
Juniperus spp. - Junipers, most species
Ilex crenata - Japanese holly
Ilex glabra - Inkberry
Ilex x meserveae - Meserve holly
Ilex opaca - American holly
Picea spp. - Spruce, most species
Pinus spp. - Pine, most species
Taxus spp. - Yew, most species
Thuja occidentalis - Eastern arborvitae

VINES

Aristolochia macrophylla (durior) - Dutchman's pipe
Campsis radicans - Trumpet creeper
Clematis montana - Anemone clematis
Lonicera sempervirens - Trumpet honeysuckle
Parthenocissus quinquefolia - Virginia creeper
Wisteria frutescens - American wisteria

PERENNIALS

Asclepias tuberosa - Butterflyweed
Agastache foeniculum - Anise hyssop
Amsonia spp. - Amsonia
Artemisia spp. - Artemisia
Aster spp. - Asters
Baptisia australis - False blue indigo
Coreopsis spp. - Coreopsis
Dianthus spp. - Pinks
Echinacea purpurea - Purple cone flower
Echinops ritro - Globe thistle
Erygium spp. - Sea holly
Euphorbia spp. - Spurge

Gaillardia spp. - Blanket flower
Geranium macrorrhizum - Bigroot geranium
Helleboreus spp. - Hellebores
Hemerocallis spp. - Daylily
Hibiscus moscheutos - Common mallow
Hosta spp. - Hosta
Iris sibirica - Siberian iris
Lavendula angustifolia - Lavender
Liatris spp. - Gay feather
Nepeta spp. - Catmint
Paeonia sp. - Peony
Perovskia atriplicifolia - Russian sage
Phlox spp. - Phlox
Rudbeckia spp. - Black-eyed Susan
Salvia spp. - Sage
Sedum spp. - Sedum
Stachys byzantina - Lamb's ears
Stokesia laevis - Stoke's aster
Thymus spp. - Thyme
Verbascum spp. - Mullein
Yucca spp. - Yucca

ANNUALS

Begonia semperflorens - Wax begonia
Calendula officinalis - Pot marigold
Canna x generalis - *Canna*
Capsicum spp. - Ornamental peppers
Celosia cristata - Cockscomb
Cleome - Spider plant
Cosmos - Cosmos
Gazania rigens - Gazania
Helianthus sp. - Sunflowers
Helichrysum bracteatum - Strawflower
Lantana spp. - Lantana
Limonium spp. - Statice
Nicotiana alata - Nicotiana
Pelargonum x hortatum - Geranium
Petunia x hybrida - Petunia
Portulaca grandiflora - Moss rose
Rudbeckia hirta - Gloriosa daisy
Senecio cineraria - Dusty miller
Tagetes spp. - Marigolds
Verbena spp. - Verbena

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Calamagrostis acutiflora - Feather reed grass

Festuca glauca - Blue fescue

Panicum virgatum - Switch grass

Schizachryium scoparium - Little bluestem

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