

# Water Efficient Plants For The North Okanagan

Prepared by

**Greater Vernon  
Garden City Society**

and the

Water Stewardship Committee



To assist local gardeners in making choices  
for  
Xeriscape type gardens

## **Reference List – Water Efficient Plants for the North Okanagan**

## **Water Efficient Plants Table**

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### **Codes**

Water Needs	(L) – Low - only requires additional water during prolonged drought
	(M) – Medium – will require supplemental watering but tolerates moderately dry conditions between watering
Exposure	Locations best suited for each plant S – Sun PS – Part Sun SH – Shade
Zones	All listed plants are in hardiness zones 1-5, with zone 5 being borderline in some areas. Zone 1 is the most extreme and hardiest zone

### **Notes**

Turf	Even though turf is not listed, it can be used efficiently in water efficient gardens. Consider the purpose & need for those areas
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### **The SEVEN PRINCIPLES for Water Efficient Landscaping**

#### **1. Planning and Design**

Take into account the regional and microclimate conditions, existing vegetation and topographical conditions. Grouping of plants by water needs.

#### **2. Soil Analysis**

Proper selection of plants for soil type. When appropriate, enhance soil by improving drainage or water holding capacity.

#### **3. Appropriate Plant Selection**

Based on the plants adaptability to the landscape, desired effect, color, texture and plant size.

#### **4. Practical Turf Areas**

Turf provides many practical benefits in a landscape. How and where it is used can significantly reduce water use. Turf should be placed so that it is irrigated separately.

#### **5. Efficient Irrigation**

Watering only when plants need water. Watering deeply encourages deeper root growth, resulting in a healthier drought-tolerant landscape.

#### **6. Use of Mulches**

Mulches applied and maintained at appropriate depths in planting beds will assist soils to retain moisture, reduce weed growth, and prevent erosion.

#### **7. Appropriate Maintenance**

Proper landscape and irrigation maintenance will preserve and enhance a quality water efficient landscape.

Plant Type	Expo	Scientific Name	Common Name	Water Needs	Size Ht	Width	Zone	Notes
<b><u>Bulbs:</u></b>								
B	S / PS	Crocus spp.	Crocus	L				
B	S / PS	Eranthis sp.	Winter Aconite	L				
B	S	Fritillaria Imperialis	Crown Imperial	L				
B	S / PS	Galanthus spp.	Snowdrop	L				
B	S / PS	Iris Reticulata	Dwarf Iris	L				
B	S / PS	Leucojum spp.	Snowflake	L				
B	S / PS	Muscari spp.	Grape Hyaciath	L				
B	S	Narcissus	Daffodil	L				
B	S	Scilla spp.	Scilla	L				
B	S	Tulipa spp.	Tulip	L				
<b><u>Grasses:</u></b>								
G	S	Andropogon Gerardii	Bluestem Grass	L	1.00	0.30	2	
G	S / PS	Arrhenatherum Elatius V. Bulbosum	Bulbous Oat Grass	L / M	0.30	0.30	2	
G	S	Briza Media	Quaking Grass	L	0.45	0.30	4	
G	S	Erianthus Ravannae	Hardy Pampas Grass	M	3.60	0.90	6	
G	S / PS	Fescue Ovina cv.	Blue Fescue	L	0.25		3	
G	S	Panicum Virgatum	Switch Grass	L	1.20	0.90	3	
G	S	Phalaris Arundinacea Var. Picta	Ribbon Grass	L				
G	S / PS	Spartina Pectinata 'Aureo-marginata'	Cord Grass	L	2.00	0.90	5	
<b><u>Ground Cover:</u></b>								
GC	SH	Aegopodium Podagraria 'Variegatum'	Goutweed	L	0.30	0.60	1	
GC	PS / SH	Ajuga Repens	Bugleweed	M	0.15	0.45	3	
GC	S / PS	Arctostaphylos Uva-ursi	Kinnikinnick	L	0.10	0.50	2	
GC	S	Cerastium Tomentosum	Snow in Summer	L	0.15	0.60	2	
GC	S	Delosperma Nubigenum	Ice Plant	M	0.10	0.60	3	
GC	PS / SH	Galium Odorta	Sweet Woodruff	M	0.30	1.00	1	
GC	S	Galium Pilosa	Genista	M	0.20	1.00	5	
GC	S	Helictotrichon Sempervirens	Blue Oat Grass	L	1.50		4	
GC	S	Helianthus X Multiflorus	Sunflower	L	2.00		1	
GC	PS / SH	Hypericum Calycinum	St John's Wort	M	0.20	1.00	4	
GC	S / PS	Polygonum Cuspidatum 'Compactum'	Japanese Fleece Flower	L	0.60	0.60	3	
GC	SH	Vinca Minor	Periwinkle	M	0.10	0.50	1	
<b><u>Herbs</u></b>								
H	S	Borago Officinalis	Borage	M	0.80	0.50	1	
H	S	Hyssopus Officinalis	Hyssop	M	0.75	0.60	4	
H	S	Marrubium Vulgare	Horehound	L	0.45	0.30	1	
H	S	Origanum Vulgare	Oregano	M	0.45	0.30	4	
H	S	Ruta Graveolens	Rue	M	0.90	0.30	4	
H	S	Satureja Montana	Winter Savory	M	0.25	0.30	4	

Plant Type	Expo	Scientific Name	Common Name	Water Needs	Size		Zone	Notes
					Ht	Wdt		
H	S	Thymus Vulgaris	Common Thyme	M	0.30	0.50	5	
<b><u>Perennials:</u></b>								
P	S / PS	Acanthus Mollis	Bear's Breech	L	0.15	0.90	4	
P	S	Achillea Filipendulina	Fernleaf Yarrow	L	0.12	0.45	2	
P	S	Achillea Millefolium	Common Yarrow	L	0.70	0.60	1	
P	S	Achillea Tomentosa 'Nana'	Wooly Yarrow	L	0.20	0.30	1	
P	S	Alyssum spp.	Gold Dust	L	0.15	0.30	2	
			Alyssum					
P	PS	Amsonia Tabernaemontana	Blue Star	M	0.90	0.90	3	
P	S	Anaphalis Margaritacea	Pearly Everlasting	M	0.90	0.30	2	
P	S / PS	Anemone Pulsatilla	Pasqueflower	M	0.30	0.30	2	
P	S / PS	Antennaria sp.	Pussytoes	L	0.15	0.30	1	
P	S	Anthemis spp.	Marguerite	M	0.90	0.45	2	
P	S	Armeria Pseudarmeria	Thrift	M	0.60	0.30	2	
P	S	Artemisia spp.	Sage or Wormwood	L	1.20	0.90	2	
P	S	Asclepias Tuberosa	Butterfly Weed	M	0.90	0.60	4	
P	S	Aster X Frikartii	Michaelmas Daisy	L	0.75	0.90	5	
P	S / PS	Baptisia Australis	False Indigo	M	1.20	0.90	2	
P	S / PS	Campanula spp.	Bellflower	M	0.60	0.45	3	
P	S	Catanache Caerulea	Cupid's Dart	L	0.60	0.30	3	
P	S	Centaurea Macrocephala	Globe Centaurea	L	1.20	0.60	2	
P	S	Centaurea Montana	Perennial Bachelor Buttons	M	0.60	0.60	2	
P	S / PS	Centranthus Ruber	Red Valerian	M	0.90	0.45	4	
P	PS / SH	Convallaria Majalis	Lily of the Valley	M	0.15	0.30	1	
P	S	Coreopsis Lanceolata	Coreopsis	L	0.45	0.30	3	
P	S	Dianthus Barbatus	Sweet William	M	0.60	0.30	2	
P	S	Echinacea Purpurea	Purple Coneflower	M	0.90	0.60	3	
P	S	Echinops Ritro	Globe Thistle	M	1.00	0.60	2	
P	S	Eremurus spp.	Foxtail Lily	M	2.40	5.00	5	
P	S	Erigeron Compositus	Alpine Fleabane	M	0.15	0.15		
P	S	Erigeron Speciosus	Fleabane	M	0.75	0.60	1	
P	S	Eryngium Amethystinum	Sea Holly	L	0.90	0.45	2	
P	S / PS	Euphorbia Polychroma	Cushion Spurge	L	0.45	0.45	2	
P	S / PS	Filipendula Vulgaris	Dropwort	L	0.45	0.30	2	
P	S	Gaillardia sp.	Blanket Flower	L	0.90	0.30	2	
P	S / PS	Gaura Lindheimeri	Butterfly Gaura	L	1.20	0.90	2	
P	S	Goniolimon Tataricum	German Statice	L	0.45		5	
P	S	Gypsophila repens	Creeping Baby Breath	M	0.15	0.60	2	
P	S	Helianthemum	Rock Rose	M	0.30	0.60	4	
P	PH / SH	Hemerocallis spp.	Daylily	M	1.20	0.60	2	
P	S / PS	Iberis Sempevirens	Candy Tuft	M	0.25	0.90	3	
P	S	Iris, Bearded	Bearded Iris	M	1.20	0.45	4	
P	S / PS	Lavandula Angustifolia	Lavender	L	0.35	0.45	2	

Plant Type	Expo	Scientific Name	Common Name	Water Needs	Size		Zone	Notes
					Ht	Wdt		
P	S	Leontopodium Alpinum	Edelweiss	L	0.15	0.25		
P	S	Limonium spp.	Statice	L	0.25		5	
P	S	Linum Flavum 'Compactum'	Golden Flax	L	0.30	0.45	2	
P	S	Linum Perenne	Perennial Flax	M	0.25	0.30	2	
P	S	Lychnis Chalcedonica	Maltese Cross	M	1.20	0.30	2	
P	S	Malva Moschata	Pine Musk Mallow	L	0.90	0.45	3	
P	S	Nepeta spp.	Catnip	M	0.60	0.45	2	
P	S	Oenothera Missouriensis	Evening Primrose	L	0.30	0.30	2	
P	S	Oenothera Tetragona	Yellow Sundrops	L	0.60	0.60	3	
P	S	Papaver Alpinum	Alpine Poppy	L	0.20	0.15	3	
P	S / PS	Penstemon sp.	Penstemon	L	0.45	0.30	3	
P	S	Perovskia Atriplicifolia	Russian Sage	M	1.50	0.60	5	
P	S / PS	Phlox Boralis	Arctic Phlox	L	0.10	0.30	1	
P	S / PS	Phlox Subulata	Creeping Phlox	L	0.15	0.45	2	
P	S / PS	Polygonum Affine	Fleece Flower	L	0.20	0.60	2	
P	S / PS	Potentilla Nepalensis	Creeping Potentilla	M	0.30	0.30	2	
P	S	Salvia X Superba	Perennial Salvia	M	0.60	0.60	3	
P	S	Saponaria Ocymoides	Soapwort	L	0.65	0.15	4	
P	S	Sedum spp.	Sedum	L	0.15	0.45	2	
P	S	Sempervivum spp.	Hens and Chicks	L	0.20	0.30	1	
P	S	Silene Acaulis	Moss Campion	M	0.83	0.30	1	
P	S / PS	Stachys Byzantina	Lamb's Ear	L	0.45	0.30	3	
P	S	Stokesia Laevis	Stoke's Aster	M	0.60	0.30	4	
P	S	Thymus Pseudolanugnosus	Woolly Thyme	M	0.85	0.30	2	
P	S / PS	Veronica spp	Speedwell	M	0.15	0.30	2	
P / G	S / PS	Lirlope Spicata	Lily-turf	L	0.25		1	

### Shrubs

S	S / PS	Amelanchier Alnifolia	Saskatoon					
S	S / PS	Aronia Melanocarpa	Black Cherry					
S	S	Buddleia Alternifolia	Butterfly Bush					
S	S	Caragana – any species	Caragano					
S	S	Caryopteris X Clandonensis	Blue Mist Shrub					
S	S / PS	Chaenomeles Speciosa	Flowering Quince					
S	S / PS	Cotinus Coggygria	Smoke Bush					
S	ALL	Cotoneaster Acutifolius	Peking Cotoneaster					
S	S	Cytisus X Praecox	Broom					
S	S / PS	Euonymus Alata	Burning Bush					
S	S / PS	Forsythia X Intermedia	Forsythia					
S	S	Genista Lydia	Lydia Broom					
S	S	Hippophae Rhamnoides	Sea Buchthorn					
S	ALL	Juniperus sp. (some)	Juniper					
S	PS / SH	Kerria Japonica	Kerria					
S	S	Kolkwitzia Amabilis	Beauty Bush					

Plant Type	Expo	Scientific Name	Common Name	Water Needs	Size		Zone	Notes
					Ht	Wdt		
S	S / PS	Ligustrum Vulgare	Privet					
S	S / PS	Lonicera Tatarica	Tatarian Honeysuckle					
S	ALL	Mahonia Aquifolium	Oregon Grape					
S	ALL	Physocarpus Opulifolius	Golden Ninebark					
S	ALL	Pinus Aristata	Bristle Cone Pine					
S	S / PS	Potentilla Fruticosa cv.	Potentilla					
S	S / PS	Prunus Besseyi	Western Sand Cherry					
S	S / PS	Prunus Tomentosa	Nanking Cherry					
S	S / PS	Rhus Aromatica	Fragrant Sumac					
S	ALL	Ribes Alpinum	Alpine Currant					
S	S	Rosa Foetida 'Bicolor'	Austrian Copper Shrub Rose					
S	S	Rosa X Harisonii	Harison's Yellow Rose					
S	S	Rosa Rubrifolia	Red Leaf Rose					
S	S	Rosa Rugosa	Shrub Rose					
S	S	Shepherdia Argentea	Silver Buffalo Berry					
S	ALL	Symphoricarpos Albus	Snowberry					
S	S	Syringe Villosa	Late Lilac					
S	ALL	Taxus Media	Yew					
S	S / PS	Viburnum Lantana	Wayfaring Tree					
S	S / PS	Viburnum Lentago	Nannyberry					
S	S	Yucca Filamentosa	Yucca					
<b><u>Trees</u></b>								
T	ALL	Acer Ginnala	Amur Maple	L	7.00	7.00	3	
T	S / PS	Aesculus Glabra	Ohio Buckeye	M	8.00	6.00	3	
T	S	Catalpa Speciosa	Northern Catalpa	L / M	15.00	10.00	4	
T	S	Crataegus Laevigata 'Paul's Scarlet'	Paul's Scarlet Hawthorn	M	5.00	4.00	4	
T	S	Crataegus Viridis 'Winter King'	Winter King Hawthorne	M	9.00	5.00	4	
T	S	Elaeagnus Angustifolia	Russian Olive	L	8.00	8.00	2	
T	S	Euonymus Europaea	European Spindle Tree	M	7.00	4.00	1	
T	S	Fraxinus Pennsylvanica	Green Ash	M	15.00	10.00	3	
T	S	Fraxinus Pennsylvanica	Marshall's Green Ash	M	18.00	10.00	3	
T	ALL	Gleditsia Triancanthos Inermis	Thornless Honey Locust	L	12.00	10.00	4	
T	S / PS	Koelreuteria Paniculata	Golden Rain Tree	L	9.00	9.00	5	
T	S	Malus 'Almey'	Almey Flowering Crab	M	7.00	6.00	2	
T	S	Morus Alba	Mulberry	M	18.00	15.00	4	
T	S	Picea Pugens	Colorado Spruce	L	20.00	8.00	2	
T	S	Pinus Mugo	Mugho Pine	L	2.00	2.00	2	

Plant Type	Expo.	Scientific Name	Common Name	Water Needs	Size		Zone	Notes
					Ht	Wdth		
T	S	Pinus Nigra	Austrian Black Pine	M	15.00	8.00	4	
T	S	Pinus Sylvestris	Scotch Pine	M	15.00	8.00	3	
T	S	Prunus X Blireiana	Blireiana Plum	M	5.00	3.00	5	
T	S / PS	Prunus Padus	European Bird Cherry	M	8.00	6.00	3	
T	S	Prunus Virginiana	Choke Cherry	L	8.00	6.00	2	
T	S	Pseudotsuga Menziesii	Douglas Fir	M	25.00	9.00	2	
T	S	Quercus Robur	English Oak	L	15.00	12.00	4	
T	S	Rhus Typhina	Staghorn Sumac	L	3.00	4.00	3	
T	S	Robinia Pseudoacacia	Black Locust	M	18.00	6.00	1	
T	S	Tamarix Ramosissima	Tamarix	L	3.00	2.00	3	
<b><u>Vines</u></b>								
V	S / PS	Campsis Radicans	Trumpet Vine	M	6.00	V	5	
V	S	Lonicera Japonica 'Halliana'	Hall's Honeysuckle	L	6.00	V	5	
V	ALL	Parthenocissus Quinquefolia	Virginia Creeper	M	8.00	V	1	
V	S / PS	Polygonum Aubertii	Silver Lace Vine	L	8.00	8.00	1	
V	S	Vitis spp.	Grape	L	6.00	V	4	

### **References:**

1. American Garden Book
2. Gardening in the North Okanagan
3. Landscaping with Nature –Jeff Cox
4. Sunset Western Garden Book
5. Xeriscape Gardening –Connie Ellefson