

go Gardening

Drought Busters

Planting the 'right plant in the right place' is the most important piece of advice a gardener can adhere to. Hot, dry, exposed parts of the garden can be very difficult to contend with, but if you cast your mind around the earth's surface, you will find a solution...

Many **New Zealand** natives are well adapted to periods of drought. Hardy **Astelia 'Silver Spear'**, frost tender **Poor Knight's Lily** and **NZ iris (Libertia)** are favourites for their spiky foliage. Ground cover **coprosmas**, **Rock lily (Arthropodium)**, **NZ daphne (Pimelia)** and **acaena** are indispensable as weed suppressing ground covers. **Puka, kapuka** and **flaxes** are ideal as structural planting.

South Africa has a wealth of wonderful dry tolerant plants including vividly coloured **gazanias** for ground cover, coastal hardy **leucospermums**, **leucadendrons** and **flannel flower (Phyllica)** for background shrubs and beautiful winter flowering **aloes**, which make amazing accent plants.

From the **Mediterranean** we have aromatic **lavender** and **rosemary**, which are useful for hedging, mass planting and containers; stunning **rock roses (Cistus)**, which smother themselves in flower from spring to autumn; a range of silver leaved **artemisia**s and highly textural **euphorbia**s; ground hugging **Convolvulus sabatius** and bushy **Convolvulus cneorum**.

Southern USA and **Mexico** are notoriously dry regions. Spring flowering **Mexican orange blossom**, blue flowered **Californian lilacs**, autumn flowering **Mexican Bush Sage (Salvia leucantha)** and succulent **agaves** all stand up to these arid climes.

Dry tolerant **Australian** natives include a large range of shrubs from versatile **Grevilleas** to spectacular **bottlebrush**, dainty **thryptomene**, aromatic **mint bush (Prostanthera)** and coastal **rosemary (Westringia)**.

Coping with dry soils:

- condition soil with compost
- add water crystals to planting holes
- install drip irrigation
- apply Saturaid around newly planted plants
- mulch garden beds with fine bark
- water plants deeply in first two seasons
- plant dense ground cover plants



Aloe

Leucadendron

Californian poppy

NZ iris

Leucospermum