

Plants that Thrive in Oklahoma Heat

Resilient and Beautiful Choices for Your Garden

Baby it's hot outside! Oklahoma is known for its scorching summer temperatures. Gardeners in this state must carefully select plants that can withstand the intense heat and often dry conditions. Fortunately, there are many resilient and beautiful plants well-suited to thrive in Oklahoma's challenging climate. This article explores some of the best options for your garden, ensuring it remains lush and vibrant even during the hottest months.

<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/drought-tolerant-plant-selections-for-oklahoma.html>

Perennials

Perennials are an excellent choice for Oklahoma gardens as they return year after year, providing consistent beauty with minimal effort.

1. Black-Eyed Susan

Black-Eyed Susans are bright, cheerful flowers that bring a burst of yellow to any garden. These drought-tolerant plants are easy to grow and can thrive in full sun. They are also excellent for attracting pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

2. Coneflower

Coneflowers are another excellent choice for Oklahoma gardens. They are known for their daisy-like flowers with prominent centers. These hardy plants are heat and drought-tolerant and can thrive in poor soil conditions. Coneflowers are also popular for their medicinal properties and are used to boost the immune system.

3. Russian Sage

Russian Sage is a stunning, drought-tolerant plant with silvery foliage and tall spikes of lavender-blue flowers. It is an excellent choice for adding texture and color to your garden. Russian Sage thrives in full sun and well-drained soil, making it perfect for Oklahoma's hot summers.

Annuals

Annuals complete their life cycle in one growing season, providing a burst of color and energy to your garden.

4. Zinnia

Zinnias are vibrant, colorful flowers that can thrive in the heat. They are easy to grow from seed and come in an assortment of colors, including red, orange, pink, and white. Zinnias are also excellent for attracting butterflies and bees to your garden.

5. Marigold

Marigolds are bright, cheerful flowers that can tolerate the heat and thrive in full sun. They are known for their pest-repelling properties,

making them an excellent choice for companion planting. Marigolds come in various shades of yellow, gold, and orange.

6. Petunia

Petunias are popular annuals known for their abundant, trumpet-shaped flowers. They come in a wide range of colors and can tolerate the heat and sun. Petunias are perfect for adding a splash of color to garden beds, containers, and hanging baskets.

Shrubs

Shrubs provide structure and form to your garden, and many varieties can thrive in Oklahoma's climate.

7. Crape Myrtle

Crape Myrtles are beloved for their stunning summer blooms, which come in various colors, including pink, red, white, and purple. These heat-tolerant shrubs can thrive in full sun and are relatively drought-resistant once established. Crape Myrtles also have attractive bark and foliage, adding year-round interest to your garden.

8. Butterfly Bush

Butterfly Bushes are known for their long, fragrant flower spikes that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. These heat-tolerant shrubs can thrive in full sun and well-drained soil. Butterfly Bushes come in assorted colors, including purple, pink, white, and yellow.

Succulents

Succulents are well-suited to hot, dry conditions, making them an excellent choice for Oklahoma gardens.

9. Sedum

Sedums are low-maintenance succulents known for their fleshy leaves and star-shaped flowers. They can thrive in full sun and well-drained soil. Sedums come in various colors and textures, making them versatile for garden design.

10. Agave

Agaves are striking succulents with rosettes of thick, fleshy leaves. They are highly drought-tolerant and can thrive in full sun. Agaves add a dramatic focal point to any garden and require minimal maintenance.

Conclusion

Creating a garden that can withstand Oklahoma's intense heat and dry conditions is possible with the right plant choices. From vibrant perennials and annuals to hardy shrubs and succulents, there are many options to create a beautiful and resilient garden. By selecting plants that are well-suited to the local climate, you can enjoy a lush, thriving garden throughout the hottest months of the year.

<https://extension.okstate.edu/programs/oklahoma-proven/>