



DROUGHT-RESISTANT CROPS AND VARIETIES

Some crops and varieties require less water than others once they are established. The vegetables, grains and herbs on the following list were selected from seed catalogs and seed catalog websites that specifically mention the terms “drought-resistant” or “drought-tolerant” in the variety description. The list is not exhaustive, but represents an opportunity for the home food gardener to consider new (or new to you) and/or unusual crops or varieties that allow you to be water-wise. For additional possibilities, consult seed companies or nurseries that specialize in plants suitable for desert or dry climate areas.

BEANS

BUSH BEANS

White Half Runner Snap

BUTTER BEANS

Jackson Wonder Bush

GARBANZO BEANS

Ceci

LIMA BEANS

Alabama Black-Eyed Butter

Carolina Sieva

Christmas

Fordhook 242 Bush

Henderson Bush

Jackson Wonder

Pima Orange

Willow Le

POLE BEANS

Blue Coco

Garden of Eden Romano

Louisiana Purple Pod

McCaslan Snap

Rattlesnake

Selma Zesta

Selma Zebra

TEPARY BEANS - need warm nights

Big Fields White

Black

Blue Speckled

Brown Speckled

Cocopah Brown

Colonia Morelos Speckled

Mitla Black

Pinacate

Sacaton Brown

Tohono O’odham White

BROCCOLI

Waltham 29 - when fall planted

CHARD - Almost all varieties listed in desert or dry climate catalogs

CORN

Anasazi Sweet

Daymon Morgan’s Kentucky

Butcher

Hopi Blue Flour

Hopi Pink

Painted Mountain Flour

Pinky Popcorn

Silver Queen Hybrid Sweet

Tennessee Red Cob

COWPEAS - need warm nights

Pink-Eye Purple-Hull

CUCUMBER

Armenian

Lemon

EGGPLANT

Listada de Gandia

GRAINS

AMARANTH

Mayo

Red Stripe Leaf

Tampala

BARLEY

Ethiopian Hulless

Jet

Milan

HERBS

Basil - Mrs. Burns’ Lemon

Borage

Catnip

Chamomile, German

Chives

Hyssop

Lavender

Lemon Balm

Mullein

Oregano

Rosemary

Sage - once it’s established

Sweet Marjoram

Thyme

MELON

Iroquois

Navajo Yellow

MUSTARD - uses less water than many other cultivated vegetables
Southern Giant Curled

OKRA - needs warm nights

Gold Coast

Hill Country Heirloom Red

Jing Orange

PEPPER

Jupiter Red Bell

Ordoño

QUINOA - all varieties

SQUASH

Cocozelle Zucchini

Costata Romanesco

Cushaw Green-Striped

Dark Star Zucchini

Iran

Jumbo Pink Banana

Lebanese Light Green

SUNFLOWER

Skyscraper - edible seed

TOMATO

Caro Rich

Pearson

Pineapple

Stone

Yellow Pear Cherry

WATERMELON

Black Diamond

WHEAT

Hard Red Spring

Kamut

Vaughan Turkey

White Sonoran

Also, see “Food Gardening with Less Water,”

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/scmq/files/183770.pdf>

Prepared by Electra de Peyster, Sonoma County Master Gardener Food Gardening Specialist. Feb 2014. For more information about FGS education and consulting services see

http://ucanr.edu/sites/scmq/Food_Gardenin_g_Specialists/