

Water Wise Plants

For Central Kansas

Tall Deciduous Trees (over 45')

- American Elm** -(use only Dutch elm disease tolerant varieties) ie. Jefferson, Princeton, New Harmony, Prairie Expedition,
American Sycamore –Platanus Occidentalis (adaptable, but more susceptible to foliar disease than London Planetree)
American Linden-Tillia Americana, *can't tolerate extended drought , but wonderful tree for pollinators
Bald cypress- Taxodium distichum (several cultivars available)
Black Walnut– Juglans nigra
Bur Oak -Quercus macrocarpa (one of the best trees for Kansas)
Caddo Sugar Maple-Acer saccharum 'Caddo', 'John Pair', 'Autumn Splendor', or 'Flashfire'
Common Hackberry -Celtis occidentalis
English Oak (Quercus robur). Also available: cv. 'Fastigiata', (upright form only 10-15 feet wide).
Ginkgo: 'Autumn Gold', 'Princeton Sentry' use MALE cultivars only
Honey locust -Gleditsia triacanthos inermis 'Skyline', 'Shademaster' and other thornless cultivars
Hybrid Elms- Patriot, Triumph, Greenstone, Accolade, New Horizon, others
Japanese Pagodatree- Sophora japonica
Japanese Zelkova - Zelkova serrata
Kentucky Coffeetree -Gymnocladus dioicus 'Espresso', others
London Planetree (Platanus x acerifolia) Cultivars - 'Bloodgood' or 'Exclamation' have best disease resistance
Miyabe Maple-'State Street' Acer miyabei golden fall color
Northern Catalpa-Catalpa Speciosa
Oregon Trail Sugar Maple-native maple from Hiawatha KS
Sawtooth Oak -Quercus acutissima
Shumard Oak-Quercus shumardii
Texas Red Oak-Quercus buckleyi, red fall color

Medium Deciduous Trees (30 to 45')

- Amur Maackia**-Maackia amurensis, tough, summer flowers
Chinkapin Oak -Quercus muehlenbergii
Columnar oaks: 'Crimson Spire', 'Skinny Jeans', others
Shantung Maple -Acer truncatum , also Norwegian/Pacific Sunset
Ornamental Pear -Pyrus calleryana 'Chastity' (infertile, won't re-seed) 'Aristocrat', 'Cleveland Select', 'Autumn Blaze', 'Chanticleer'
Goldenrain Tree -Koelreuteria paniculata, summer flowers
Hardy Rubber Tree-Eucommia ulmoides
Hedge maple-Acer campestre, tolerant of tough conditions
Lacebark Elm -Ulmus parvifolia (some can get larger than 45')
Frontier Elm -Ulmus frontier, some red fall color
Osage Orange-Maclura pomifera, use thornless & fruitless varieties such as 'Whiteshield', "Wichita"
White Mulberry -fruitless Morus alba
Western Soapberry -Sapindus drummondii

Small Deciduous Trees (under 30')

- Amur Maple** -Acer ginnala
Eastern or Texas Redbud -Cercis sp. (15-20 year life)
Flowering Crabapple -Malus, various cultivars
Chinese Fringe Tree-Chionanthus spp
Japanese Tree Lilac- Syringa reticulata
Japanese Zelkova– 'City sprite', 'Wireless' both 25' tall
Smoketree-Cotinus spp. American smoketree has good fall color
Seven Son Flower -Heptacodium miconioides
Tatarian Maple-Acer tataricum, fairly adaptable to KS soils

Large Deciduous Shrubs (over 8')

- Beauty Bush -Kolkwitzia amabilis
Blackhaw Viburnum – Viburnum prunifolium
Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum – Viburnum rufidulum
Common Chokecherry -Prunus virginiana
Elderberry- Sambucus Canadensis, good colonizer
Lilacs -Syringa vulgaris
Ninebark -Physocarpus opulifolius
Peking Cotoneaster - Cotoneaster acutifolia
Rough-leafed Dogwood -Cornus drummondii
Rose of Sharon - Hibiscus syriacus
Seven Son Flower – Heptacodium miconioides (very tough)
Siberian Pea Shrub- Caragana arborescens
Staghorn Sumac -Rhus typhina
Western Sandcherry -Prunus besseyi
Winter Honeysuckle -Lonicera fragrantissima
Chastetree – Vitex spp.

Medium Deciduous Shrubs (4 to 8')

- Butterfly Bush Buddleia davidii
Burning Bush-Euonymus alatus
Dwarf Ninebark -Physocarpus opulifolius Nanus or 'Tiny Wine'
Flowering Quince- Chaenomeles speciosa
Forsythia-Forsythia spp.
Fragrant Sumac -Rhus aromatic
Japanese Barberry- Berberis thunbergii
Korean Lilac- Syringa meyeri
Crapemyrtle – Lagerstroemia indica (top may die back in winter)
Mockorange- Philadelphus spp.
Oakleaf Hydrangea -Hydrangea quercifolia
Sandhill Plum -Prunus angustifolia
Three Leaf Sumac -Rhus trilobata
Privet-Ligustrum spp.
Spirea-Spirea spp. (Vanhoutte Spirea)
Shrub rose– Rosa spp.
Viburnum-Viburnum spp. (Several types, some prefer shade)

Small Deciduous Shrubs (under 4')

- Alpine Currant -Ribes alpinum
Bluemist Spirea -Caryopteris spp.
Butterfly Bush (dwarf types available)
Common Snowberry/Coralberry-Symphoricarpos spp.
False Indigo -Amorpha fruticosa
Golden Currant -Ribes odoratum
St. Johns wort -Hypericum spp. Such as 'Sunburst' and others
Japanese Barberry-(dwarf types like Crimson Pygmy or Kobold)
Leadplant -Amorpha canescens
Potentilla 'Happy Face'-Bush Cinquefoil
Purple Beautyberry – Callicarpa dichotoma
Spirea - Spirea spp. (Bumald, smaller types)
Shrub Rose -Rosa spp.

Evergreen Trees

- Juniper -Juniperus spp. (many cultivars in different sizes and shapes available--look for Juniperus virginiana, Juniperus chinensis, communis, horizontalis, and others.

Avoid Juniperus 'scopulorum' varieties

Evergreens Continued....

Eastern Red Cedar (native juniper) is recommended for windbreaks
Pines (use sparingly due to pine wilt and diseases) Pinyon,
Ponderosa, Limber, Lacebark, Southwestern White
Oriental Arborvitae-the best tried and true arborvitae in KS
Work is being done to identify other evergreens for Kansas

Large Evergreen Shrubs

Juniper-Juniperus spp. (many types)
Leatherleaf Viburnum-V. rhytidophyllum (leaves hang on)
Pragense Viburnum-V. x pragense (leaves hang on)
Pyracantha-Pyracantha spp. (tough, has thorns)

Medium Evergreen Shrubs

Junipers- Juniperus various species
Manhattan Euonymus-Euonymus kiautschovicus
Nandina- Nandina domestica

Small Evergreen Shrubs

Juniper-Juniperus various species
Soapweed- Yucca glauca
Yucca -Yucca filamemntosa

Groundcover options for Shade (beneath trees, north walls)

Bergenia -Bergenia cordifolia
English Ivy-Hedera helix
Mahonia, Creeping Mahonia repens
Liriope - Liriope spp.
Periwinkle -Vinca minor
Solomon's Seal-Polygonatum odoratum
Wintercreeper Euonymus-Euonymus fortunei *aggressive
Woodland Phlox-Phlox divaricata

Groundcover options for Full Sun

Catmint -Nepeta, look for low growing types
Creeping Junipers -Juniperus various species
Daylily -Hemerocallis various species
Evergreen Candytuft -Iberis sempervirens
English Ivy-Hedera helix (better on East or North if in full sun)
Gro-Low Fragrant Sumac Rhus aromatica 'GroLow'
Lambs Ears -Stachys byzantina
Lilyturf -Liriope spicata
Periwinkle -Vinca minor
Phlox (Creeping) -Phlox subulata
Ribbon Grass -Phalaris arundinacea var. picta
Rock Soapwort -Saponaria ocyroides
Sedum, -Stonecrop Sedum various species
Snow in Summer -Cerastium tomentosum
Thyme (Creeping) -Thymus serpyllum
Virginia Creeper-Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Wintercreeper -Euonymus fortunei *often aggressive

Ornamental Grasses

Ornamental grasses are a great choice for Kansas, there are many varieties in different sizes and shapes. **Examples:**
Big Bluestem, Blue Oat Grass, Blue Grama, Fountain Grass,
Dwarf Fountain Grass, Feather Reed Grass, Maiden Grass,
Hardy Pampas Grass, Indiangrass, Little Bluestem,
Lovegrass, Northern Sea Oats, Prairie Dropseed, Switchgrass
Sideoats Grama

Perennials—all grow in full sun (**) tolerates part shade (*) plants that do not tolerate wet sites

*Allium-Ornamental onion (multiple varieties)
*Agastache/Hummingbird Mint – 'Desert Sunrise', others
*Artemesia - Artemisia spp.
*Aster – Aster spp.
*Blue/False Indigo – Baptisia sp.
*Blue Star Amsonia -Amsonia
*Black-eyed Susan/Rudbeckia - Rudbeckia spp.
*Butterfly Milkweed - Asclepias tuberosa
*Coreopsis - Coreopsis, various cultivars
*Catmint -Nepeta spp.
Daylily - Hemerocallis spp. **
*Engelmann's daisy -Engelmannia peristenia
*Missouri/ Evening Primrose - Oenothera missouriensis
*False Indigo - Amorpha fruticosa
*Gaillardia - Gaillardia puchella
*Heliopsis– Ox Eye Sunflower
*Leadplant - Amorpha canescens
*Mexican Primrose – Oenothera speciosa/berlandieri
*False Sunflower – Heliopsis helianthoides
*Garden Phlox – Phlox paniculata and other Phlox spp.
*Gaura - Gaura spp. Use native varieties to benefit native insects
*Globe Thistle - Echinops spp. **
Goldenrod – Solidago spp. **
Golden Alexanders– Zizia aurea-needs some soil moisture **
*Geranium (Perennial) , Cranesbill – Geranium sanguineum **
Wild Geranium – Geranium maculatum
*Greyheaded coneflower-Ratibida pinnata
Hibiscus, hardy - Hibiscus moscheutos **
*Hosta – Hosta spp. (shade only) **
*Ice Plant - Delesperma
*Iris - Iris spp. **
Joe Pye - Eupatorium purpureum -needs some soil moisture
*Lambs' Ear - Stachys byzantine **
*Lavender - Lavandula angustifolia -requires well drained soil
*Letterman's Ironweed- Vernonia lettermanii 'Iron Butterflies'
*Liatris - Liatris spp. **
Liriope - Liriope spp. **
Maximilian Sunflower – Helianthus maximilianii
*Meadow Sage – Salvia nemorosa
*Prairie Coneflower/Mexican Hat – Ratibida columnifera
Monarda/Beebalm – Monarda didyma **
*Mullein - Verbascum spp. **
*Oriental Poppy - Papaver orientale **
* Oriental Oregano– Origanum laevigatum
*Penstemon – Penstemon spp.
*Peony – Paeonia
*Poppy Mallow - Callirhoe involucrate
Purple Coneflower- Echinacea (many varieties)
*Purple prairie-clover– Dalea purpurea
*Red Yucca - Hesperaloe parviflora
*Russian Sage - Perovskia atriplicifolia
*Salvia – Salvia nemorosa
Scutellaria resinosa 'Smoky Hills' -Resinous Skullcap
*Sedum - Sedum spp. **
Spiderwort – Tradescantia tharpaii
*Woolly Yarrow - Achillea tomentosa
*Yarrow - Achillea spp.