Water - Wise Plants
Trees & Ornamentals for South Central Kansas

List is developed / coordinated by Sedgwick County – K-State Research & Extension, with major input from K-State research and observation by horticulturists and landscape architects in the Wichita area.

The following plants are adapted to south central Kansas. All require watering until well-rooted and established. This may take one to two years or more, depending on the type and size of plants, site characteristics, and other factors. Our 'water-wise' designation means a plant will survive on natural rainfall in our area, but may need to be watered *at most* once every two weeks ***after establishment*** to retain its aesthetic characteristics.

When selecting plants adapted for our prairie climate, we must realize that while most soils are well-drained and rather dry, lower areas and drainage areas are moist to wet sites with different plants that either thrive or fail. Some will not tolerate moist to wet sites that may remain saturated with water for several days at a time. Plants that do not tolerate wet sites are preceded by *

An adapted plant list expands considerably when adding plants that are watered regularly. This plant list is for gardeners that are searching for plants to survive on natural rainfall, or with infrequent supplemental watering.

Tall Deciduous Trees (over 40')

American Elm – *Ulmus* spp.
Black Walnut - *Juglans nigra*
Bur Oak - *Quercus macrocarpa*
*Caddo Maple – *Acer saccharum* var. Caddo
Freeman Maple – *Acer x freemanii*
Common Hackberry - *Celtis occidentalis*
English Oak – *Quercus robur*
Ginkgo – *Ginkgo biloba*
*Honeylocust *Gleditsia triacanthos inermis*
Japanese Zelkova – *Zelkova serrata*
Kentucky Coffeetree - *Gymnocladus dioicus*
Lacebark Elm *Ulmus parvifolia*
London Planetree – *Platanus x acerifolia*
Northern Catalpa – *Catalpa speciosa*
*Northern Red Oak – *Quercus rubra*
Nuttall Oak – *Quercus nuttallii*
Pecan – *Carya illinoensis*
Sawtooth Oak - *Quercus acutissima*
Shingle Oak – *Quercus imbricaria*
Shumard Oak – *Quercus shumardii*
*'Legacy' Sugar Maple – *Acer saccharum* 'Legacy'
Swamp White Oak – *Quercus bicolor*
Bald Cypress – *Taxodium distichum*
Water Oak – *Quercus nigra*
Willow Oak – *Quercus phellos*

Medium Deciduous Trees (20-40')

*Chinese Pistache – *Pistacia chinensis*
*Chinkapin Oak - *Quercus muehlenbergii*
*Chittamwood – *Bumelia lanuginosa*
Emerald Sunshine Elm – *Ulmus propinqua* 'JFS-Bieberich'
Globe Catalpa – *Catalpa bungei*
*Goldenrain Tree - *Koelreuteria paniculata*
Hedge Maple – *Acer campestre*
Ornamental Pear - *Pyrus calleryana*
Osage Orange - *Maclura pomifera*
Persimmon – *Diospyros virginiana*
*Shantung Maple (including Norwegian/Pacific Sunset) – *Acer truncatum*
Southern Catalpa – *Catalpa bignonoides*
Trident Maple – *Acer buergerianum*
Fruitless Mulberry - *Morus* spp.
*Western Soapberry - *Sapindus drummondii*

Small Deciduous Trees (under 20')
Amur Maple - *Acer tataricum* subsp*. ginnala*
*Chinese Date/Jujube – *Ziziphus jujuba*
*Chitalpa – *x Chitalpa tashkentensis*
Crabapple – *Malus spp. Add*
Fringe Tree – *Chionanthus spp.*
Green Hawthorn 'Winter King' *Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King'
Japanese Tree Lilac – *Syringa reticulata*
*Redbud (Eastern & Oklahoma types) - *Cercis canadensis*
Russian Hawthorn *Crataegus ambigua*
Serviceberry – *Amelanchier* spp.
*Smoketree – *Cotinus* sp.
Tatarian Maple – *Acer tataricum*
Winterberry Euonymus – *Euonymus bungeanus*

Evergreen Trees
*Arizona Cypress – *Cupressus arizonica* (select hardy cultivars)
*Atlas Cedar – *Cedrus atlantica*
*Austrian Pine - *Pinus nigra*
Arborvitae - *Thuja* spp.
*Incense Cedar – *Calocedrus decurrens*
*Juniper - *Juniperus virginiana & J. chinensis*
*Limber Pine - *Pinus flexilis*
*Lacebark Pine – *Pinus bungeana*
*Pinyon Pine - *Pinus cembroides var. eduli*
*Ponderosa Pine - *Pinus ponderosa*
Southern Magnolia – *Magnolia grandiflora*
*Southwestern White Pine - *Pinus strobiformis*

Large Deciduous Shrubs (over 8')
Beauty Bush - *Kolkwitzia amabilis*
Blackhaw Viburnum – *Viburnum prunifolium*
Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum – *Viburnum rufidulum*
Chokecherry - *Prunus virginiana*
Deciduous Holly/Possumhaw – *Ilex decidua*
*Desert Willow – *Chilopsis linearis*
Elderberry - *Sambucus canadensis*
Glossy Buckthorn – *Rhamnus frangula*
Lilac - *Syringa vulgaris*
Ninebark - *Physocarpus opulifolius*
Peking Cotoneaster - *Cotoneaster acutifolia*
Rose of Sharon - *Hibiscus syriacus*
Rough-leafed Dogwood - *Cornus drummondii*
Seven-Son Flower – *Heptacodium miconioides*
Shrub Rose – *Rosa* spp.
Siberian Pea Shrub - *Caragana arborescens*
Staghorn Sumac - *Rhus typhina*
Wahoo - *Euonymus atropurpureus*
Western Sandcherry - *Prunus besseyi*
Winter Honeysuckle - *Lonicera fragrantissima*
Wild Plum - *Prunus Americana*
Chastetree – *Vitex spp.*

Medium Deciduous Shrubs (4 to 8')
*Burning Bush – *Euonymus alatus*
*Butterfly Bush - *Buddleia davidii*
Crapemyrtle – *Lagerstroemia indica*
Flowering Quince - *Chaenomeles speciosa*
*Forsythia - *Forsythia spp.*
*Fragrant Sumac - *Rhus aromatica*
Glossy Abelia – *Abelia grandiflora*
*Japanese Barberry - *Berberis thunbergii*
Korean Lilac - *Syringa meyeri*
Mentor Barberry - *Berberis x mentorensis*
Mockorange - *Philadelphus spp.*
Oakleaf Hydrangea - *Hydrangea quercifolia*
PeeGee Hydrangea - *Hydrangea paniculata*
Privet - *Ligustrum* spp.
Sandhill Plum - *Prunus angustifolia*
Serviceberry - *Amelanchier spp.*
Shrub Rose – *Rosa* spp.
Spirea - *Spirea spp.*
Spreading Cotoneaster - *Cotoneaster divaricata*
Viburnum – *Viburnum* spp.
Weigela – *Weigela florida*

Small Deciduous Shrubs (under 4')
*Caryopteris - *Caryopteris* spp.
Coralberry - *Symphoricarpos*
Currant – *Ribes* spp.
*New Jersey Tea - *Ceanothus ovatus*
Purple Beautyberry – *Callicarpa dichotoma*
Shrub Rose – *Rosa* spp.
Spirea - *Spirea* spp.

Large Evergreen Shrubs
*Juniper *Juniperus spp.*
*Yew – *Taxus* sp.
Leatherleaf Viburnum -*Viburnum rhytidophyllum*
Pragense Viburnum – *Viburnum* x *pragense*
Pyracantha - *Pyracantha spp.*

Medium Evergreen Shrubs
*Junipers - *Juniperus spp.*
*Mahonia - *Mahonia aquifolium*
Manhattan Euonymus - *Euonymus kiautschovicus 'Manhattan'*
Nandina – *Nandina domestica*

Small Evergreen Shrubs
*Juniper - *Juniperus spp.*
*Soapweed - *Yucca glauca*
*Yucca - *Yucca filamemtosa*

Vines
*Clematis – *Clematis* spp**.**
English Ivy – *Hedera helix*
Trumpet Honeysuckle – *Lonicera sempervirens*
Trumpetvine – *Campsis radicans*
Virginia Creeper - *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*
Boston Ivy - *Parthenocissus tricuspidata*
Chinese Wisteria - *Wisteria sinensis*

Ornamental Grasses
Big Bluestem - *Andropogon gerardi*
Blue Oat Grass - *Helictotrichen sempervirens*
Blue Grama - *Bouteloua gracilis*
Dwarf Fountain Grass - *Pennisetum alopecuroides*
Feather Reed Grass - *Calamagrostis spp.*
Maiden Grass - *Miscanthus sinensis*
Hardy Pampas Grass – *Saccharum ravennae*
Indiangrass - *Sorgastrum nutans*
Little Bluestem - *Schizachyrium scoparium*
Lovegrass - *Eragrostis spp.*
Northern Sea Oats – *Chasmanthim latifolium*
Prairie Dropseed - *Sporobolus heterolepis*
Sideoats Grama - *Bouteloua curtipendula*
Switchgrass – *Panicum virgatum*

Groundcovers for Shade
Bergenia - *Bergenia cordifola*
English Ivy – *Hedera helix*
Hall's Honeysuckle - *Lonicera japonica 'Halliana'*
Lily-of-the-Valley - *Convallaria majalis*
Liriope – Liriope spp.
*Mahonia, Creeping - *Mahonia repens*
*Periwinkle - *Vinca minor*
Solomon's Seal – *Polygonatum odoratum*
Wintercreeper Euonymus – Euonymus fortunei 'Coloratus'
Woodland Phlox – *Phlox divaricata*

Groundcovers for Full Sun
*Catmint - *Nepeta x faassenii*
*Creeping Junipers - *Juniperus spp.*
Daylily - *Hemerocallis spp.*
*Gro-Low Fragrant Sumac - *Rhus aromatica 'GroLow'*
Hall's Honeysuckle - *Lonicera japonica 'Halliana'*
Liriope – *Liriope* spp.
*Missouri Primrose – *Oenothera*
*Phlox (Creeping) - *Phlox subulata*
*Poppy Mallow - *Callirhoe involucrate*
*Sedum, Stonecrop - *Sedum spp.*
*Silvermound - *Artemisia schmidtiana 'Silvermound'*
*Snow in Summer - *Cerastium tomentosum*
Spurge, Cushion - *Euphorbia epithymoides (polychroma)*
Spurge, Cypress - *Euphorbia cyparissias*
*Thyme (Creeping) - *Thymus serphyllum*
Wintercreeper Euonymus - *Euonymus fortunei var. coloratus*

Perennials—all grow in full sun, (**) tolerates part shade
*Agastache/Hummingbird Mint – *Agastache*
*Artemesia - *Artemisia spp.*
*Aster – *Aster* spp.
*Blue Indigo – *Baptisia sp.*
*Blue Star Amsonia - *Amsonia hubrichtii*
*Black-eyed Susan/Rudbeckia - *Rudbeckia* spp.
*Butterfly Milkweed - *Asclepias tuberose*
*Coreopsis - *Coreopsis,* various cultivars
*Creeping Phlox - *Phlox subulata*
Daylily - H*emerocallis spp.* **

Euphorbia - *Euphorbia spp.*
*Evening Primrose - *Oenothera missouriensis*
*False Indigo - *Amorpha fruticosa*
*Gaillardia - *Gaillardia puchella*
*Leadplant - *Amorpha canescens*
*Mexican Primrose – *Oenothera speciosa/berlandieri*
*False Sunflower – *Heliopsis helianthoides*
*Garden Phlox – *Phlox paniculata*
*Gaura - *Gaura* spp.
*Globe Thistle - *Echinops* spp. **
Goldenrod – *Solidago* spp. **
*Geranium (Perennial)
Cranesbill – *Geranium sanguineum* **
Wild Geranium – *Geranium maculatum*
Hibiscus, hardy - *Hibiscus moscheutos* **
*Hosta – *Hosta* spp. (shade only) **
*Ice Plant - *Delesperma*
*Iris - *Iris spp.* **
Joe Pye - *Eupatorium purpureum*
*Lambs' Ear - *Stachys byzantine* **
*Lavender - *Lavandula angustifolia*
*Liatris - *Liatris spp.* **
Liriope - *Liriope* spp. **
Lily-of-the-Valley - *Convallaria majalis***
*Meadow Sage – *Salvia nemorosa*
*Mexican Hat – *Ratibida columnfera*
Monarda/Beebalm – *Monarda didyma* **
*Mullein - *Verbascum* spp. **
*Oriental Poppy - *Papaver orientale* **
*Penstemon – *Penstemon* spp.
*Pitcher's Salvia - *Salvia pitcheri*
*Peony – *Paeonia*
*Phlox – *Phlox* spp.
*Poppy Mallow - *Callirhoe involucrate*
*Prickly Pear Cactus - *Opuntia humifusa*
*Purple Coneflower - *Echinacea* spp.
*Red Yucca - *Hesperaloe parviflora*
*Rock Soapwort - *Saponaria ocymoides*
*Russian Sage - *Perovskia atriplicifolia*
*Salvia – *Salvia nermosa*
*Sea Lavender - *Limonium latifolium*
*Sedum - *Sedum* spp. **
Spiderwort – *Tradescantia tharpii*
*Sunflower – *Helianthus maximilianii*
*Wooly Yarrow - *Achillea tomentosa*
*Yarrow - *Achillea* spp.

(*) plants that do not tolerate wet sites
(**) tolerates part shade

Plant list coordinated by
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