



Xeriscape Plants

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Because most of Hawai'i's hotels, shopping centers, office buildings, and residences are located on the dry, hot leeward sides of the islands, many of their landscape plants are xeriscape plants, even though irrigation is usually available. Xeriscape plants include most of the coastal native plants and beach plants.

Rainforest plants suffer in hot, dry weather. In similar fashion, xeriscape plants may often suffer in wet conditions. For example, mock orange is very vulnerable to root rot in poorly drained soil or landscapes with excessive irrigation.

The landscape committee of a Kāhala condominium was not satisfied with the maintenance of their facility and recommended to their grounds foreman to increase the irrigation. The foreman did just that and succeeded in causing root rot to mock orange, Natal plum, and privet.

Enchanted Lake has a heavy clay soil that does not dry out quickly once wet. As this is a dry area where frequent watering is necessary, hibiscus, croton, Natal plum, privet, and mock orange suffer from root rot in a similar fashion. Amending the soil is not cost effective. But even with this difficult soil, beach naupaka grew well and looked good. Therefore, I recommended that susceptible shrubs be replaced with beach naupaka.

Several succulent ground covers, such as hottentot fig, ice plant, hearts and flowers, and bacopa suffer from *Rhizoctonia* even when watered normally. The xeriscape ground covers of Madagascar periwinkle and dwarf oyster plant will be damaged from *Phytophthora* foliar rot if the foliage is wet by the irrigation system.

Salinity damage can be a problem during hot, dry conditions if irrigation is not adequate. Developing a deep root system by watering deeply and not allowing the lower soil layers to dry out is extra insurance against salinity damage. Therefore, proper irrigation is important in hot, dry weather to avoid root and foliar rot with excessive watering and to avoid salinity damage through

development of a deep root system and decreased fertilizer levels.

Many xeriscape plants are hardy and drought tolerant but not necessarily attractive. Examples are milo, neem, gular, Java plum, kiawe, yellow poinciana, silver oak, looking glass, chinaberry, mahogany, octopus, date palm, ironwood, hau, and wiliwili (trees), and beach naupaka, blue vitex, oleander, cardboard palm, Indian hawthorn, and yeddo hawthorn (shrubs). Other xeriscape plants are attractive or have unique and desirable features with different degrees of drought tolerances. Examples of such trees are California pepper, weeping red bottlebrush, karum, variegated Chinese banyan, white opiuma, Formosan koa, Cook or Norfolk pines, rainbow shower, coconut, lignum vitae, St. Thomas orchid, silver buttonwood, calabash, Australian tea, blue latan palm, Canary Island date palm, dwarf date palm, plumeria, silver tecoma, queen palm, gold tree, autograph, true and false kamani, mahagoni, tamarind, and Madagascar olive. Examples of shrubs are Raspberry Ice bougainvillea, Hula Girl hibiscus, spider lily, daylily, enchantress hawthorn, candlebush, Cape honeysuckle, dwarf poinciana, stephanotis, sandpaper vine, allamanda, purple bignonia vine, mandevilla, yellow mandevilla vine, Japanese honeysuckle, orange blanchetiana bromeliad, variegated pineapple, and Texas Ranger.

Finding effective and attractive ground covers with drought tolerance is not easy. My preferences are African lily, Madagascar periwinkle, the green form of spider plant, false heather, trailing lantana, bird nest sansevieria, and beach vitex. Many drought tolerant vines can also be added to this list of ground covers. In the future, when water becomes scarce, brackish water may be required for landscape uses. Therefore, xeriscape plants with salt tolerance will become important. The following lists of plants is provided to help you choose xeriscape plants. It is not a complete list. You may add or delete as you choose.

Trees

<i>Acacia confusa</i>	Formosan koa
<i>Bauhinia binata</i>	
<i>Bauhinia blakeana</i>	Hong Kong orchid
<i>Bauhinia monandra</i>	St. Thomas orchid
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	
<i>Bucida buceras</i>	geometry
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	weeping red bottlebrush
<i>Cassia</i> x <i>Nealiae</i> ‘Wilhelmina Tenny’	
<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	ironwood
<i>Catalpa longissima</i>	yoke-wood
<i>Cerbera manghas</i>	cerbera
<i>Clusia rosea</i>	autograph
<i>Crescentia cujete</i>	calabash
<i>Enterolobium cyclocarpum</i>	earpod
<i>Guaiacum officinale</i>	lignum vitae
<i>Gymnostoma papuanum</i>	
<i>Hypphorbe lagenicaulis</i>	bottle palm
<i>Mimusops caffra</i>	
<i>Mimusops elengi</i>	pogada
<i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>Europaea</i>	oliva
<i>Peltoporum pterocarpum</i>	yellow poinciana
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island date palm
<i>Pimenta dioica</i>	allspice
<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i> ‘Variegata’	white opiuma
<i>Plumeria rubra</i>	plumeria
<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	karum
<i>Prosopis pallida</i>	kiawe
<i>Pterocarpus indicus</i>	narra
<i>Schinus molle</i>	California pepper
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Christmasberry
<i>Sterculia foetida</i>	Java olives
<i>Sterculia urens</i>	gular
<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>	mahogany
<i>Thevetia peruviana</i>	be-still
<i>Thevetia peruviana</i> var. <i>aurantiaca</i>	salmon-pink be-still

Shrubs

<i>Agave attenuate</i>	dragon tree agave
<i>Allamanda schottii</i>	bush allamanda
<i>Allamanda cathartica</i> var. <i>hendersonii</i>	allamanda
<i>Anisacanthus thurberi</i>	desert honeysuckle
<i>Bauhinia galpinii</i>	red bauhinia vine
<i>Bougainvillea</i> ‘Raspberry Ice’	raspberry bougainvillea
<i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i>	brazil bougainvillea
<i>Calotropis gigantean</i>	crown flower
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>	dwarf poinciana
<i>Carissa macrocarpa</i>	Natal plum

<i>Crinum asiaticum</i>	spider lily
<i>Dietis bicolor</i>	African iris
<i>Ficus microcarpa</i> var. <i>crassifolia</i>	wax ficus
<i>Galphimia gracilis</i>	galphimia
<i>Gardenia taitensis</i>	Tahitian gardenia
<i>Grewia occidentalis</i>	lavender starflower
<i>Jasminum multiflorum</i>	star jasmine
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	New Zealand tea
<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i> cv. Texas Ranger	Texas Ranger
<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	Japanese privet
<i>Marsdenia floribunda</i>	stephanotis
<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	mock orange
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	oleander
<i>Petrea volubilis</i>	sandpaper vine
<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	blue plumbago
<i>Pseuderanthemum curruthersii</i> var. <i>atropurpureum</i>	purple false eranthemum
<i>Pseuderanthemum curruthersii</i> var. <i>reticulatum</i>	yellow veined false eranthemum, eldorado
<i>Pseuderanthemum curruthersii</i> var. <i>variegatum</i>	variegated false eranthemum
<i>Rhaphiolepis</i> x <i>delacourii</i>	enchantress hawthorn
<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>	Indian hawthorn
<i>Rhaphiolepis umbellate</i> var. <i>integerrima</i>	yeddo hawthorn
<i>Russulia equisetiformis</i>	coral plant
<i>Senna alata</i>	candle bush
<i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i>	crepe jasmine
<i>Tecoma capensis</i>	cape honeysuckle
<i>Thunbergia erecta</i>	bush thunbergia
<i>Turnea ulmifolia</i>	yellow alder
<i>Vitex trifolia</i> var. <i>variegata</i>	variegated blue vitex

Native shrubs

<i>Canthium odoratum</i>	alahe'e
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	'a'ali'i
<i>Hibiscus arnottianus</i>	Hawaiian white hibiscus, koki'o ke'oke'o
<i>Hibiscus calyphyllus</i>	ma'o hau hele, Rock's Kauai hibiscus
<i>Myoporum sandwicense</i>	naio
<i>Osteomeles anthyllidifolia</i>	'ūlei
<i>Scaevola sericea</i>	beach naupaka
<i>Vitex rotundifolia</i>	pohinahina, beach vitex
<i>Wikstroemia uva-ursi</i>	'ākia

Groundcovers

<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> 'Vera'	orange form of aloe vera
<i>Alternanthera tenella</i>	joyweed
<i>Aptenia cordifolia</i>	hearts and flowers
<i>Asystasia gangetica</i>	coromandel
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Madagascar periwinkle
<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>	green form of spider plant
<i>Crassula</i> 'Flame'	flame crassula

<i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i>	false heather
<i>Graptopetalum paraguayense</i>	
<i>Kalanchoe blossfeldiana</i>	kalanchoe
<i>Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi</i>	
<i>Lantana camara</i> ‘Flava’	yellow sage
<i>Lantana camara</i> ‘Mista’	mista yellow sage
<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	trailing lantana
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle
<i>Rhoeo spathacea</i>	oyster plant
<i>Rhoeo spathacea</i> ‘Dwarf’	dwarf oyster plant
<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i>	snake plant
<i>Sedum x rubrotinctum</i>	pork and beans

Landscape plumeria cultivars

Carmen
 Common Yellow
 Dwarf Singapore
 Dwarf Pink Singapore
 Duke
 East West Center #3
 Hilo Beauty
 Jean Moragne
 Kauka Wilder
 King Kalakaua
 Maui Beauty
 Samoan Fluff
 Sherman
 Tomlinson
 White Shell

Used for landscaping because of the flowers

Little Pink Pansy
 Kimo
 Moir
 Nebel Rainbow

Succulents

Agavaceae

<i>Agave americana</i>	century plant
<i>Agave augustifolia</i> ‘Marginata’	variegated Caribbean agave
<i>Agave attenuate</i>	dragon tree agave
<i>Dracaena marginata</i>	money tree
<i>Fucraea foetida</i> ‘Medio-picta’	Mauritius hemp
<i>Fucraea gigantean</i> ‘Striata’	
<i>Fucraea sallow marginata</i>	
<i>Nolina recurvata</i>	pony tail
<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i> ‘Hahnii’	bird’s nest sansevieria

Yucca elephantipes spineless yucca

Cactaceae

Echinocactus grusonii golden barrels

Echinocereus rigidissimus

Mammillaria ceisiana showy pincushion

Mammillaria parkinsonii owl's eyes

Soehrensia ingens

Crassulaceae

Crassula 'Flame'

Graptopetalum paraguayense

Kalanchoe beharensis felt bush

Kalanchoe blossfeldiana kalanchoe

Kalanchoe feltschenkoi

Sedum x rubrotinctum

Euphorbiaceae

Acalypha godseffiana

Acalypha hispida chenille plant

Acalypha wilkesiana copper leaf

Codiaeum variegatum croton

Euphorbia lactea dragon-bone tree

Euphorbia milii crown of thorns

Euphorbia pulvinata cushion euphorbia

Liliaceae

Aloe barbadensis 'Vera' orange form of aloe vera

Asparagus densiflorus 'Myers' foxtail asparagus

Asparagus densiflorus 'Sprengeri' sprenger asparagus

Chlorophytum comosum green form of spider plant

Crinum asiaticum spider lily

Hemerocallis aurantiaca golden summer daylily

Ophiopogon jaburan 'Vittatus' white lilyturf

Xeriscape plants in the Acanthaceae family

Anisacanthus thurberi desert honeysuckle

Asystasia gangetica coromandel

Graptophyllum pictum caricature plant

Graptophyllum pictum 'Eldorado' eldorado caricature plant

Hemigraphis aurantiaca metal leaf

Justicia brandegeana shrimp plant

Pseuderanthemum carruthersii 'Atropurpureum' purple false eranthemum

Pseuderanthemum carruthersii 'Reticulatum' yellow-veined false eranthemum

Pseuderanthemum carruthersii 'Variegatum' variegated false eranthemum

Thunbergia erecta bush thunbergia

Thunbergia erecta 'Alba' white bush thunbergia

Xeriscape plants in the Apocynaceae family

<i>Allamanda cathartica</i>	common allamanda
<i>Allamanda oenotheraefolia</i>	dwarf allamanda
<i>Allamanda schottii</i>	bush allamanda
<i>Adenium obesum</i>	desert rose
<i>Carissa macrocarpa</i>	Natal plum
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Madagascar periwinkle
<i>Cerbera manghas</i>	cerbera
<i>Mandevilla x amabilis</i>	mandevilla
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	oleander
<i>Pentalinon lutea</i>	yellow mandevilla
<i>Plumeria rubra</i>	plumeria
<i>Thevetia peruviana</i>	be-still
<i>Thevetia peruviana</i> var. <i>aurantiaca</i>	salmon-pink be-still

Xeriscape plants in the Bignoniaceae family

<i>Catalpa longissima</i>	yoke-wood
<i>Crescentia cujete</i>	calabash tree
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	jacaranda
<i>Kigelia africana</i>	sausage tree
<i>Macfedyena unguis-cati</i>	cat's-claw creeper
<i>Saritaea magnifica</i>	purple bignonia
<i>Tabebuia aurea</i>	silver trumpet tree
<i>Tabebuia berteroi</i>	hispaniolan rosy trumpet tree
<i>Tabebuia donnell-smithii</i>	gold tree
<i>Tabebuia rosea</i>	pink trumpet tree

Xeriscape plants in the Fabaceae family

<i>Acacia confusa</i>	Formosan koa
<i>Adenanthera pavonina</i>	false wiliwili
<i>Bauhinia binata</i>	alibangbang
<i>Bauhinia galpinii</i>	red bauhinia
<i>Bauhinia monandra</i>	St. Thomas orchid tree
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	orchid tree
<i>Bauhinia blakeana</i>	Hong Kong orchid tree
<i>Caesalpinia ferra</i>	Brazilian ironwood
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>	dwarf poinciana
<i>Calliandra haematocephala</i>	lehua haole
<i>Cassia bakeriana</i>	baker shower tree
<i>Cassia grandis</i>	pink shower tree
<i>Cassia javanica</i>	pink and white shower tree
<i>Cassia x nealiae</i> 'Lunalilo Yellow'	Lunalilo Yellow rainbow shower tree
<i>Cassia x nealiae</i> 'Nii Gold'	Nii Gold rainbow shower tree
<i>Cassia x nealiae</i> 'Queen's Hospital White'	Queen's Hospital White rainbow shower tree
<i>Cassia x nealiae</i> 'Wilhelmina Tenney'	Wilhelmina Tenney rainbow shower tree
<i>Colvillea racemosa</i>	colvillea
<i>Delonix regia</i>	royal poinciana
<i>Enterolobium cyclocarpum</i>	earpod

<i>Erythrina crista galli</i>	common coral tree
<i>Erythrina sandwicensis</i>	wiliwili
<i>Erythrina variegata</i>	Indian coral
<i>Erythrina variegata</i> ‘Tropic Coral’	Tropic Coral wiliwili
<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i> ‘Variegata’	white opiuma
<i>Prosopis pallida</i>	kiawe
<i>Pterocarpus indicus</i>	narra
<i>Samanea saman</i>	monkeypod tree
<i>Senna alata</i>	candle bush
<i>Senna surattensis</i>	kalamona tree
<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	tamarind

Resources

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