

# livescapes

SPECIAL SECTION OF *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*

Producing profits through bedding plants, ornamentals & trees

## In a **bout** with **DROUGHT**



Drought-resilient landscapes don't have to look like they were designed to save water.

**T**HE HEAT of summer is here, threatening to wilt and wither your carefully designed landscapes ... unless you installed drought-tolerant landscape plants. Choosing the right cultivars and following simple installation advice can keep your clients' landscapes looking vibrant through the hottest weather.

"We want people to become drought resilient ahead of time," says Kelly Smith, drought

### THE RIGHT PLANTS CAN BEAT THE HEAT. BY JAMIE J. GOOCH

resources specialist at the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, NE. "Drought is a slow-moving natural disaster that people don't think about until it happens. Over time, it can cause a lot of environmental stress and human hardship. It's going to happen. We want people to be prepared."

#### Diversity equals strength

Perhaps the best way to prepare a landscape for drought conditions is with biodiversity. Different types of plants, trees and shrubs — as opposed to a monoculture — are better able to resist stressful conditions. Part of that biodiversity should come in the form of native plants. Natives are more likely to tolerate drought conditions because they've become conditioned to the weather patterns of a particular area over many generations. Depending on the region, native species can offer a number of height, texture and color options.

However, there are many non-native species that can be used to add color and additional interest. The key is to choose drought tolerant

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#### ANTHONY TESSELAAR PLANTS VARIETY FOCUS: FLOWER CARPET® PINK SUPREME

The second of the 'Next Generation' Flower Carpet® roses, Pink Supreme is a non-stop bloomer from early summer through late autumn frost. The results of this Next Generation breeding includes improved natural disease resistance plus heat and humidity tolerance. Other Next Generation releases include Flower Carpet® 'Scarlet' and Flower Carpet® 'Amber.' For more information about this and other Anthony Tesselaaar Plants, visit [www.tesselaar.com](http://www.tesselaar.com).

cultivars for your area. Many local extension offices often maintain a list of drought-tolerant plants specific to their regions.

Consider a plant's water requirements when designing the landscape. Grouping plants with similar water needs will allow for easier and more efficient irrigation of that grouping, rather than watering an entire bed of plants that may not need additional water

"The landscape industry has a big opportunity to make communities more drought resilient," Smith says. "By making domestic ecosystems that have greater diversity and drought resistance, landscapers can really have an impact."

### Watching water use

As more parts of the country with limited water resources become increasingly urbanized, water shortages are becoming commonplace. Droughts bring emergency water restrictions and new legislation geared toward making the most out of

### DID YOU KNOW?

- > Landscaping accounts for about half the water Californians use at home.
- > Every day in the United States, we drink about 110 million gallons of water.
- > A leaky faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day.
- > Watering your grass and trees more heavily, but less often, saves water and builds stronger roots.

— Sources: American Water Works Association, Mojave Water Agency, and Sunnyslope County Water District.

each drop of water — and with good reason. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than 50 percent of water used to irrigate lawns and gardens is wasted. And that's a lot of waste because between 30 and 50 percent of the average American household's water use goes to outdoor uses.



This drought-resilient landscape includes a man-made stream that will create an attractive dry streambed in times of drought.

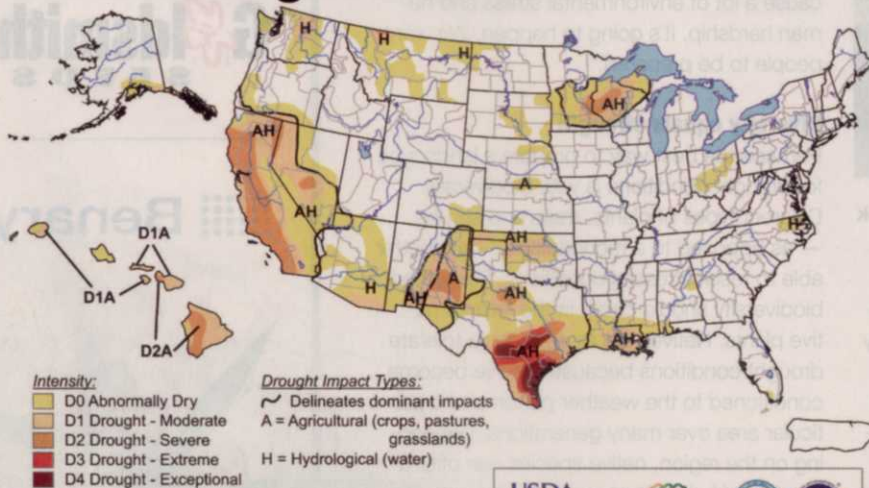
Some communities offer incentives for homeowners to make their landscapes more drought resilient and conserve water. By doing a little research, these incentives can be used to help bring in new clients and offer new services.

New irrigation technology is one way to save water and keep your clients' landscapes looking lush. Smart controllers monitor soil moisture, rain, wind, slope and plant type to help apply the right amount of water to the right areas. Installing, maintaining and inspecting irrigation systems can bring extra business to your company. For more information about smart irrigation, visit [www.epa.gov/watersense/sim](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/sim).

"Landscapers have a vested interest in being drought resilient, especially if they're installing lawns and other water-intensive plants," Smith says. "When coming out of a dry time, when homeowners' water-hungry installations have died off, landscapers can help people select drought-resilient plantings. It's a good business angle and good for future drought preparation."

## U.S. Drought Monitor

June 23, 2009  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, June 25, 2009

Author: M. Brewer/L. Love-Brotak, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC



### GOLDSMITH SEEDS VARIETY FOCUS: CORA® CASCADE™ TRAILING VINCA

Brand new series from Goldsmith Seeds, Cora® Cascade™ Trailing Vinca! Just like 'Cora,' this new series has a patented disease resistance to aerial *Phytophthora*. This vigorous trailing plant fills large beds and landscapes with lush, long-lasting flowers. Super large blooms cover the plant — no bald spots! 'Cora Cascade' is available in five colors and a mixture.



### Easy-going elegance

As the newest member of **Proven Winners'** Supertunia series, Supertunia Vista Silverberry is a vigorous, mounding petunia hybrid that's low maintenance, heat tolerant, and butterfly and pet friendly. With a height between 16 and 24 in., it's ideal as a landscape filler or containers by itself or in a combination. Its generous white blooms last all season, and it's hardy to 30 degrees Fahrenheit in full sun. [www.provenwinners.com](http://www.provenwinners.com)

### Royal treatment

**Terra Nova's** Regal Ruffles strain of Hellebore is replete with double picotees, splashed forms and rich hues. But this clumping beauty also has brawn — in the form of resistance to shade and deer. It flowers during the winter, and is hardy in USDA zones 5 through 8. It favors dappled shade (full sun in the Northwest) and prefers soils with good moisture and drainage. [www.terranovanurseries.com](http://www.terranovanurseries.com)



### Merry mix

New Taishan Marigold, available in gold, orange, yellow and mixture (pictured), delivers season-long landscape performance with high-impact, drive-by color. Featuring a height of 10 to 12 in. and a spread of 8 to 10 in., its branching provides full, lush plants. Large flowers hold their doubleness and won't develop soft centers — so there's extended season performance and less chance of disease. [www.panamseed.com](http://www.panamseed.com)

### Lush and lively

Just like "Cora," **Goldsmith Seeds'** new "Cora Cascade" Trailing Vinca series has disease resistance to aerial *Phytophthora*. This vigorous trailing plant fills large beds and landscapes with lush, long-lasting flowers. Large blooms cover the plant with no bald spots. The series is available in five colors and a mixture. [www.goldsmithseeds.com](http://www.goldsmithseeds.com)



### Strong yet stylish

Amber is the ninth and newest color in the **Flower Carpet** family of groundcover roses, and the third of the Next Generation Flower Carpets, following Scarlet and Pink Supreme. The striking amber-peachy-apricot blooms are in abundance from late spring through frost, with bushes maturing as tall as 3 ft. Once established, Amber is drought tolerant, disease resistant and requires little maintenance. Hardy in USDA zones 5 to 11, it also handles zone 4 readily with winter protection. [www.flowercarpet.com](http://www.flowercarpet.com)



### Flower power

At between 18 and 20 in. tall, **Benary's** *Rudbeckia hirta* "Denver Daisy" is suited to 1-gal. production, or for large landscape plantings. It produces large masses of golden flowers adorned with rusty red rings that cover the daisy from late spring until first frost. [www.benary.com](http://www.benary.com)



### BALL VARIETY FOCUS: MATRIX® PANSY

Matrix pansies produce abundant large blooms in traditional bright colors, including several unique patterns such as Morpheus, Sunrise and Blue Frost. Plants display superior branching and won't stretch in the heat but will grow quickly to fill in client's beds and pots. Matrix will continue to bloom even through shorter days of winter in mild climates and will brighten every spot of the garden the following spring. Matrix is an outstanding choice for spring and autumn containers and landscape beds.

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**livescapes**  PRODUCTS



**Divine style**

Kichler Lighting's new Cathedral Collection features seven coordinating lighting products with cathedral-inspired detailing to create a high-styled, cohesive look throughout the

landscape. Each durable die-cast aluminum piece is finished in a textured bronze powdercoat. Products in the collection include a wall-mounted planter, low-voltage pendant, two deck light styles, path light, bollard light and the pictured standing lit planter, which spreads a shadow onto path and patio surfaces while illuminating potted flowers or plants. [www.landscape-lighting.com](http://www.landscape-lighting.com)

**Get smart**

Developed for commercial tree growers, the Smart Pot series are soft-sided, fabric containers have the rigidity to hold their shape while supporting a plant. The aeration container features the ability to air-prune and enhance a plant's root structure. After all, a highly branched, fibrous root structure is the key to growing a better plant — with more flowers and fruits, and more resistance to insects and disease.



[www.smartpots.com](http://www.smartpots.com)

**Sustainable solution**

Strata Systems' new Neoweb is a honey-combed, cellular confinement system (geocell) that, when filled with soil, stabilizes soft soils, reinforces pavement structures, and provides a durable reinforcement solution. It can be customized to the specific project and application. Cell heights range from 3 to 8 in., and sections are tri-folded, shrink-wrapped and palletized for shipment. [www.geogrid.com](http://www.geogrid.com)



**BENARY VARIETY FOCUS:**

**RUDBECKIA HIRTA 'DENVER DAISY'**

Growers will love this new Rudbeckia because of its high germination and large stands of usable seedlings. At 18 to 20 in. tall, the 'Denver Daisy' is perfect for 1-gallon production or for large landscape plantings. Flower power is no understatement for this beauty as large masses of golden

flowers adorned with rusty red rings cover the 'Denver Daisy' from late spring until first frost. Strong, dense flowers stems ensure it won't flop or fall over in adverse weather conditions. This heat-loving beauty is able to thrive in diverse and rugged areas.



**True to form**

Primescape Products' new Flexi-Liners conform to the shape of each container to prevent leaks. Made from soft, flexible plastic that can be cut or bent as needed, they're easily trimmed to fit with a standard pair of scissors. The liners also help prevent calcium deposit buildup on the surface of the planters, as well as prevent excessive evaporation. They're available in a range of sizes, from 8.3 to 31.5 in. top diameter. [Primescapeproducts.com](http://Primescapeproducts.com)

**Drainage for a cause**

Place a reusable PotHoles Drainage Disc at the bottom of a pot, add soil and plant — the hydroponic filter holds moisture for plants while improving oxygen flow. Available in four sizes (5, 6.5, 8.5 and 11.5 in.), the product has the added benefit of aiding lung cancer research: 5% of all Internet sales and 5% of PotHoles' profits go to the Christine J. Burge Endowment for Lung Cancer Research at the University of Colorado Cancer Center. [www.gotpotholes.com](http://www.gotpotholes.com)



**Handy rake**

Looking for the best way to clear debris from flower beds, around plants and from other hard-to-reach areas? The Oxo adjustable hand rake, part of its Good Grips series, features easily adjustable tines that lock into place at a spread anywhere from 3 to 12 in. Simply unlock the adjuster and slide forward or back to increase or decrease the spread, then securely lock into place.



Fully retract the tines for getting into tight areas or for compact storage. Fully expand the tines for clearing larger areas. The 12-oz. rake also features a dual position handle for added reach with optimal comfort and a soft, nonslip grip. [www.oxo.com](http://www.oxo.com)