



Choosing plants that can withstand hotter, drier summers but are resilient to sudden weather shifts

All of these plants are being planned for The Garden Jungle

Perennials & Architectural Plants

Eryngium (Sea Holly): Known for its striking metallic-blue or silvery flower heads and architectural form. They have deep taproots that help them find moisture far below the surface, and they thrive in full sun and poor, well-drained soil.

Hylotelephium (formerly Sedum, e.g., *Hylotelephium spectabile* / Stonecrop): A brilliant succulent perennial. Its fleshy leaves store water, allowing it to easily shrug off prolonged dry spells. It also produces heavy clusters of pink or red flowers in late summer that pollinators love.

Verbena bonariensis: A tall, see-through plant with slender stems topped with purple clusters. It handles dry conditions exceptionally well and self-seeds reliably without becoming a nuisance.

Achillea (Yarrow): Features flat-topped flower clusters in various colors (yellow, pink, terracotta) above fern-like foliage. It is remarkably tough, loves the sun, and handles baked soil effortlessly.

Shrubs & Woody Plants

Lavandula (Lavender): A quintessential choice for dry UK gardens. English lavenders (*Lavandula angustifolia*) are fully hardy, love baking in the sun, and require very little water once established. Their aromatic silver foliage naturally reduces moisture loss.

Cistus (Rock Rose): These evergreen shrubs produce papery flowers in shades of pink, white, and magenta throughout the summer. They are naturally adapted to dry, rocky Mediterranean climates and excel in poor, well-drained UK soils.

Perovskia 'Blue Spire' (Russian Sage): Boasting finely divided silvery-grey foliage and tall plumes of violet-blue flowers late in the season, this shrub thrives in exposed, dry borders and adds wonderful architectural structure through winter with its ghost-white stems.

Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary): Both a culinary herb and a resilient landscape shrub. It handles drought seamlessly, stays evergreen year-round, and produces lovely pale blue flowers early in the year for waking pollinators.

Grasses

Stipa gigantea (Giant Feather Grass): Creates a dramatic focal point with tall, oat-like golden panicles that dance in the wind well above a neat clump of evergreen foliage. It loves full sun and handles dry soils with ease.

Festuca glauca (Blue Fescue): A compact, ornamental tufted grass with striking blue-gray needle-like leaves. It thrives in dry, lean soils and requires virtually no maintenance.

Handy tips for establishing these drought tolerant plants

Timing: Plant them in autumn or spring so they have plenty of time to establish deep root systems before facing intense summer heat.

Soil Drainage: Many drought-tolerant plants (especially silver-foliaged ones) hate sitting in cold, wet winter mud more than they hate summer drought.

Ensure heavy soils are improved with grit or planted on a slope to assist drainage.

The First Year Rule: Even drought-resistant plants need regular watering during their *first* growing season to help them settle in. After that, you can largely leave them to fend for themselves.



A free resource from www.thegardenjungle.co.uk