

Olivette *Life*

...in the center of it all

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Garden With Drought Tolerant Plants

Adequate rain has fallen on a regular basis throughout this summer and many of our perennials, shrubs and trees are lush and green. But this is not the typical weather for summer in St. Louis and Olivette.

As you are looking over your garden and flower beds this month and evaluating what grew well, what did not and what you want to try next year, consider gardening with plants that are more drought tolerant and can withstand the typical hot and dry Olivette summer. Choices vary from perennial favorites "Becky" Shasta daisy, many of the yarrows, baptisias, Russian sage, and Rudbeckia; annuals such as portulaca, cosmos and dianthus; oregano, rosemary or sage herbs; Japanese honeysuckle vine, ninebark and Japanese barberry shrubs, many of the oak trees or the golden rain tree.

There are several good resources to help you select drought tolerant plants for your landscape. The Missouri Botanical Garden has a web site filled with helpful information

about many plants and plant problems. One area lets you select specific criteria for your plants (size, sun and water requirements, etc.) and will give you an extensive list of plants meeting your needs and has links to more information about each plant, tree, shrub, vine, etc. Check it out at <http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/Search.asp>

Another good source for plant information is the Grow Native! Website <http://www.grownative.org>

We invite you to visit the Olivette in Bloom Garden at the Olivette Community Center which includes many Missouri native plants.

Olivette in Bloom is a non-profit community volunteer organization with a mission to promote the natural beauty and harmony in Olivette by designing, planting, and maintaining garden sites. OIB needs you in our gardens. Check our web site www.olivetteinbloom.org for workday dates and other volunteer possibilities.

