

MYTH

DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANTS DON'T NEED TO BE WATERED



THE FACTS

ALL plants **NEED WATER**.

Drought-tolerant plants are those that, **ONCE ESTABLISHED**, will survive receiving low levels of rainfall or watering.

Plants considered drought-tolerant typically have **EXTENSIVE** root systems.

- Newly-installed trees or shrubs, drought-tolerant or not, **LACK** the root system needed to draw in sufficient moisture, thus require adequate irrigation to establish sufficient root systems.
 - All plants need weekly watering during the first year, to establish roots.
- A drought-tolerant, water-conserving landscape is **NOT** going to grow as quickly or vigorously as the same landscape under increased irrigation.
 - No plant will grow vigorously without adequate moisture, but drought-tolerant species will survive prolonged droughts.
- If water is **AVAILABLE**, many drought-tolerant plant species will actually use **MORE WATER** than typical landscape plants!

REFERENCES

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/xeriscaping.pdf>

OKANAGAN WATERWISE

<https://www.makewaterwork.ca/plants/>