

Plants for a dry Mediterranean garden

When one thinks of the Mediterranean region thoughts generally turn to Italy and Greece. In reality the region encompasses the whole of the Mediterranean from Spain, Morocco, Egypt, Israel to Greece, Italy, the Balearic Islands etc. The plants from this region are often silver-leafed plants, indicating hardiness and drought tolerance. These are ideal for our climate and as in many parts of the Mediterranean will tolerate extreme heat to frosts, cold and salt laden winds. This means they are also ideal for coastal regions. I have provided a list here of the plants for a Mediterranean plant garden to replace our front lawn. All the plants are readily available from most garden centres.

Plant/shrub	Known as	Origin
Agapanthus 'Black Pantha'		Egypt
Agapanthus africanus	Lily of the Nile	Egypt
Buxus balearica	box	Spain
Cistus 'Gallipoli Rose'	white rock rose	Turkey
Cistus 'Sunset'	pink rock rose	All regions
Cistus ladanifer	white rock rose	All regions
Convolvulus sabiatus [syn.C. mauritanicus]	ground cover	Morocco
Convolvulus cneorum	silver bush	Morocco
Dianthus allwoodii	pinks	All regions
Helichrysum italicum	curry plant	Italy
Hibiscus syriacus	Rose of Sharon	
Iris tall bearded		Spain
Iris cristata		Morocco
Iris unguicularis	winter flowering iris	Algeria
Laurus nobilis	bay tree	All regions
Lavandula dentata	French lavender	France
Lavandula angustifolia	English lavender	All regions
Myrtus communis	myrtle	Italy
Nepeta x faassenii 'Six Hills Giant'	cat mint	All regions
Phlomis fruticosa	Jerusalem sage yellow fls.	Israel
Phlomis italica	mauve flowers	ditto
Thymus 'Doone Valley'	ground cover thyme	All regions
Thymus vulgaris	common culinary thyme	All regions
Thymus lanigerum	ground cover woolly thyme	All regions
Rosmarinus 'Blue Lagoon'	rosemary	All regions
Olea europaea	olive	All regions

There are many varieties of each of the plants listed above. I have only listed the specific varieties/cultivars growing in our garden. The common name is shown if there is one and the region that the plants originated. All the plants listed above blend in very well with our Australian plants for the mixed garden with their blue, mauve, white and other pastel flower colours.

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