



Cold Hardiness Zones in Alabama	
Zone	Ave. Min. Temp.
6b	-5 to 0 °F
7a	0 to 5 °F
7b	5 to 10 °F
8a	10 to 15 °F
8b	15 to 20 °F

Drought-tolerant Plants

The following plants are known to have good drought-tolerance, good pest resistance and adaptability to a wide range of soils and environmental conditions in the southeast. When selecting trees and shrubs, consider their mature size and provide sufficient growing space.

* Indicates plant is native to the U.S.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Hardiness Zones	Mature Size Ht./Width (Ft.)	Evergreen or Deciduous	Comments
Trees					
American Holly*	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	6b to 8b	50/40	E	Male and female trees. Only the female bears fruit.
Bald Cypress*	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	6b to 8b	70/30	D	Adapts to wet or dry sites
Bouganvillea Goldenraintree	<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i>	6b to 8b	40/30	D	Showy pink capsules in summer
Chestnut Oak	<i>Quercus prinus</i>	6b to 8b	70/60	D	Very adaptable
Chinese Pistache	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	6b to 8b	35/35	D	Brilliant orange fall color
Crape Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	6b to 8b	Variable	D	Many flower colors and plant sizes
Deodar Cedar	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	7a to 8b	70/60	E	Gets large so needs lots of space
European Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	6b to 8b	60/40	D	Use as single specimen or in groups for screening

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Trees (continued)					
Foster Holly	<i>Ilex x attenuate</i>	6b to 8b	40/20	E	Red fruit persist all winter. Pyramidal growth habit.
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	6b to 8b	80/80	D	Male and female trees. Female has smelly fruit so plant a male
Hedge Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	6b to 8b	45/45	D	Specimen tree or hedge for screening
Japanese Zelkova	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	6b to 8b	80/50	D	Elm-like foliage. Nice shade tree
Lacebark Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	6b to 8b	50/50	D	Tough tree. Several cultivars
Laurel Oak*	<i>Quercus hemisphaerica</i>	6b to 8b	60/40	D	Nice shade tree
Needle Palm*	<i>Rhapidopyllum hystrix</i>	6b to 8b	12/12	E	Tough plant. Sharp needles near main trunk
Nellie R. Stevens Holly	<i>Ilex 'Nellie R. Stevens'</i>	6b to 8b	25/15	E	Great for specimen or screening
Overcup Oak*	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	6b to 8b	50/50	D	GA Gold Medal Winner
Pin Oak*	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	6b to 8b	70/40	D	Pyramidal growth habit
Sawtooth Oak	<i>Quercus acutissima</i>	6b to 8b	60/70	D	Tough large shade tree
Shumard Oak*	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	6b to 8b	80/60	D	Large pyramidal shade tree
Southern Magnolia*	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	6b to 8b	80/80	E	Little Gem cultivar (30ft. x 15ft.) is recommended for small spaces
Trident Maple	<i>Acer buergerianum</i>	6b to 8b	30/30	D	GA Gold Medal Winner
Willow Oak*	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	6b to 8b	60/40	D	Nice pyramidal form
Windmill Palm	<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	6b to 8b	40/10	E	Cold-hardy trunk-forming palm
Yaupon Holly*	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	7a to 8b	30/20	E	Female produces translucent red fruit
Shrubs					
Adam's Needle*	<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	6b to 8b	6	E	Bold texture, sharp spines, yellow-white spring flowers
American Beautyberry*	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	6b to 8b	8/6	D	Clusters of magenta fruit in summer
Beautybush	<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>	6b to 8b	10/15	D	Pink bell-shaped flowers in spring
Bumald Spirea	<i>Spiraea x bumalda</i>	6b to 8b	5/5	D	Several cultivars, flower colors and plant sizes
Burkwood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum x burkwoodii</i>	6b to 8b	10/8	E	Cultivar Mohawk is a GA Gold Medal Winner
Butterfly-bush	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	6b to 8b	15/10	D	Many flower colors. Butterfly magnet
Chastetree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	6b to 8b	20/20	D	Purple, lavender or white cultivars

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Shrubs (continued)					
Chinese Photinia	<i>Photinia serrulata</i>	6b to 8b	25/30	E	Large shrub, hedge, or screen plant
Cutleaf Lilac	<i>Syringa laciniata</i>	7a to 8b	8/4	D	Pale lilac, fragrant flowers in spring
Dwarf Yaupon Holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> 'Nana'	6b to 8b	5/5	E	A common foundation shrub
Firethorn (Pyracantha)	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	6b to 8b	20/20	E	Red summer berries
Flowering Quince	<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	6b to 8b	10/10	D	Many flower colors
Fortune's Tea-olive	<i>Osmanthus x fortunei</i>	6b to 8b	30/30	E	More cold-hardy than fragrant tea-olive
Forsythia (Yellow Bells)	<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i>	6b to 8b	10/10	D	Yellow spring flowers
Fragrant Tea-olive	<i>Osmanthus fragrans</i>	7b to 8b	30/30	E	Fragrant fall flowers
Glossy Abelia	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	6b to 8b	6/6	E	Many improved cultivars. Rose Creek is a GA Gold Medal Winner
Japanese Aucuba	<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	7a to 8b	10/15	E	Bold tropical-like foliage
Japanese Cleyera	<i>Ternstroemia gymnanthera</i>	6b to 8b	10/6	E	Accent plant, hedge or screen
Japanese Spirea	<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	6b to 8b	Variable	D	Several cultivars, flower colors and plant sizes
Juniper	<i>Juniper</i> spp.	6b to 8b	Variable	E	Many forms and sizes
Leatherleaf Viburnum	<i>Viburnum rhytidophyllum</i>	6b to 7b	10/10	E	Large shrub or screen plant
Prague Viburnum	<i>Viburnum x pragense</i>	6b to 8b	10/10	E	White spring flowers. Good screen plant
Rose-of-Sharon	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	6b to 8b	12/10	D	Many cultivars and flower colors
Southern Waxmyrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	7a to 8b	15/15	E	Tough plant. Dwarf cultivars available
Thunberg Spirea	<i>Spiraea thunbergii</i>	6b to 8b	5/5	D	White spring flowers, fine texture
Vanhoutte Spirea	<i>Spiraea x vanhouttei</i>	6b to 8b	10/12	D	Arching branches. White spring flowers
Winter Jasmine	<i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i>	6b to 8b	4/7	E	Yellow flowers in late winter. Often used on banks or to cascade over walls
Vines/Groundcovers					
Carolina Yellow Jessamine*	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	6b to 8b	20	E	Yellow spring flowers
Confederate Jasmine	<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	7a to 8b	20	E	White spring flowers. Madison is a cold-hardy cultivar.
Creeping Juniper	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	6b to 8b	0.5 to 1/6	E	Blue Rug and Bar Harbour are popular cultivars
Creeping Phlox	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	6b to 8b	0.5/2	E	Often used on banks
Lady Banks Rose	<i>Rosa banksia</i> 'Alba Plena'	6b to 8b	30	D	Yellow double flowers in spring

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Vines/Groundcovers (continued)					
Mondograss	<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	6b to 8b	0.5/0.5	E	Good turfgrass substitute in shade
Shore Juniper	<i>Juniperus conferta</i>	6b to 8b	1/6	E	Blue Pacific and Emerald Sea are popular cultivars
Trumpet Honeysuckle*	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	6b to 8b	20	E	Many cultivars and flower colors
Trumpet creeper*	<i>Campsis radicans</i>	6b to 8b	40	D	Orange-scarlet spring flowers
Virginia Creeper*	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	6b to 8b	50	D	Tough vine for walls, or arbors
Herbaceous Perennials					
Black-eyed Susan*	<i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.	6b to 8b	Variable		Many species and cultivars
Blue Anise Sage	<i>Salvia guaranitica</i>	7a to 8b	4/4		Deep blue flowers from spring to frost
Butterfly Weed*	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	6b to 8b	3/2		Orange spring flowers
Coronation Gold Yarrow	<i>Achillea</i> x 'Coronation Gold'	6b to 8b	2/2		A very popular hybrid
Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis</i> spp.	6b to 8b	Variable		Hundreds of cultivars, flower forms and flower colors
False Blue Indigo*	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	6b to 8b	3/4		Violet-blue lipine-like flowers
Gaura*	<i>Guara lindheimeri</i>	6b to 8b	4/3		White and pink-flowering cultivars
Globe Thistle	<i>Echinops ritro</i>	6b to 8b	4/3		Blue summer flowers
Golden Rod Hybrids	<i>Solidago hybrida</i>	6b to 8b	Variable		Many nice cultivars
Lamb's-Ears	<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	6b to 8b	1/1		Woolly foliage. Purple summer flowers
Mexican Sage	<i>Salvia leucantha</i>	7b to 8a	4/4		Blue and white flowers all summer
Purple Coneflower*	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	6b to 8b	3/2		Several cultivars. Purple, rose or white flowers
Red Hot Poker	<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i>	6b to 8b	3/3		Red torch-like flowers in late spring
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	6b to 8b	Variable		Light blue flowers. Many cultivars
Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	6b to 8b	4/4		Light blue late-summer flowers
Sedum (Stonecrop)	<i>Sedum</i> spp.	6b to 8b	Variable		Popular roof garden plant. Tough
Speedwell	<i>Veronica</i> spp.	6b to 8b	Variable		Many species and cultivars. Pink, purple, blue, or white flowers
Statice	<i>Limonium latifolium</i>	6b to 8b	2/2		Prefers partial shade
Texas Sage*	<i>Salvia greggii</i>	7a to 8b	3/3		Scarlet flowers all summer
Wormwood	<i>Artemisia</i> spp.	6b to 8b	Variable		Silver King and Powis Castle are popular cultivars

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Annuals					
Annual Periwinkle	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>		1/1		Pink, red, or white flowers
Blanket Flower*	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>		1 to 2/2		Flowers spring to frost
Dusty Miller	<i>Senecio cineraria</i>		1/1		Gray fuzzy foliage. Small daisy-like yellow flowers
Globe Amaranth	<i>Gomphrena globosa</i>		1 to 3/1		Likes heat. Several cultivars
Mealycup Sage	<i>Salvia farinacea</i>		1/2		Purple or lavender flowers
Moss Rose (Purslane)	<i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>		0.5/1		Many colors. Single or double flowers
Musk Mallow	<i>Abelmoschus moschatus</i>		2 to 3/2		Yellow flowers, 3 inches across. Pacific Light Pink is a popular cultivar
Narrow-leaf Zinnia	<i>Zinnia angustifolia</i>		1/1		Tough plant. Flowers yellow, orange, or white
Purple Heart	<i>Setcreasea purpurea</i>		1/3		Magenta foliage. Small lavender flowers
Strawflower (Paper Daisy)	<i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i>		1 to 3/2		Many colors
Sulphur Cosmos	<i>Cosmos sulphurens</i>		1 to 3/2		Yellow, orange or white flowers
Treasure Flower (Gazania)	<i>Gazania rigens</i>		1.5/1.5		Daisy-like flowers. Many colors

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