

The Drought ~ A Few Winners and Losers

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Nothing scientific, but I just wanted to list a few casual observations of landscape plants in central Alabama regarding survival and performance in the historical drought plaguing much of the Southeast. The extreme heat coupled with lack of rain has profoundly affected many landscapes. With outdoor water bans in effect, gardeners need to make better choices when planting trees, shrubs, and perennials.

Winners - *These underutilized plants deserve wider use due to heat and drought tolerance.*

Nippon Lily (*Rohdea japonica*)

Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)

Needle Palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*)

Chaste-tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*)

Knockout Rose (*Rosa hybrid*)

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)

Lespedeza 'Lil Volcano' (*Lespedeza sp.*)

Hardy Eucalyptus (*E. neglecta*)

Sandhills Cyrilla (*Cyrilla arida*)

Hybrid Tea Olive (*Osmanthus fortunei*)

Losers - *These landscape plants suffered tremendously often despite care and watering.*

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Japanese Hollies (*Ilex crenata* varieties)

Azaleas (*Rhododendron* hybrids)

Rhododendrons (species and hybrids)

Arborvitaes (*Thuja* species)

False Cypress (*Chameacyparis* species)

Florida Anise (*Illicium floridanum*)

Blue Hydrangeas (*H. macrophylla*)

Otto Luyken Laurel (*Prunus* selection)



Needle Palm



Knockout Rose



Florida Anise



Rhododendren