

## 9 Perennials That Can Tolerate Neglect in This Heat

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Do you ever dream of a perennial that can be planted and establish itself in the landscape with almost no supplemental watering? Do you dream of a perennial that will grow in those extra dry, hot spots around the yard that everything else just seems to burn up when summer kicks in? Perhaps some of these areas are far from a water source and watering is difficult. Maybe these spots are actually decorative pots out on a hot pool deck or down the driveway. The plants burn up every summer because you miss watering these containers just one day, and its game over due to the heat. Don't get discouraged anymore, we have solutions for that. Following are 9 perennials that not only tolerate drought, but look hot summers in the eye and say "The hotter it gets, the better I look!"

'Lemon Ball' sedum is sure to brighten up your yard with its bright chartreuse succulent foliage. The bright yellow blooms during late spring will add a refreshing color to the landscape making it sure to bring in the compliments. Plant in full sun and it will grow to about 2 inches tall by 2-3 feet wide. Its drought tolerance makes it a must have when in need of a plant that requires very little water.

'Autumn Joy' sedum is truly a sight to see that will have jaws dropping during its blooming season in late summer. Its drought tolerance makes it a must in our Statesboro heat and the bronze-red flower clusters compliment the green foliage beautifully. When planted in a container, it needs water 2-3 times per week during the strongest heat of the summer. Once established in the ground, natural rainfall is all this plant will need, reaching 12-18 inches tall by 12 inches wide. 'Autumn Joy' is sure to bring joy to anyone who sees it, making it a must for your yard!

'Blue Sue' setcreasea makes for an irresistible groundcover for many reasons. Its drought tolerance is vital for our summer Statesboro heat, so it's perfect for those who occasionally forget to water. What makes it really stand out is its blue-tinged foliage with a purple outline that is complimented by pink flowers from summer to fall. When planted in full to partial shade, 'Blue Sue' will grow 6-8 inches. This is a truly durable groundcover that's great in containers or under plantings around shrubs and roses.

Succulent deep purple leaves of the 'Purple Heart' setcreasea will be sure add a unique splash of color and texture to your landscape. This crawling groundcover has stunning pink blooms during the summer that contrast beautifully with the foliage. It is extremely drought tolerant once established and works great in a low maintenance area such as rock gardens, containers, and mixed borders. When planted in full to partial sun, 'Purple Heart' will quickly grow to 18x36 inches. It can withstand high temperatures while keeping its vibrant purple color, making it irresistible for our Statesboro area!

The 'Tricolor' Tradescantia plant is exceptionally easy to grow and is popular both indoors and out. The purple, white, pink, and green striped foliage work wonderfully in mixed containers, rock gardens, or as a clumping groundcover. When planted in partial sun to shade and given moderate water, this unique perennial will reach 8-12 inches.

'Hallmark' bulbine is a sight to see that produces an orange bloom complimented by stunning light green succulent leaves. This versatile dry climate gem adapts to humidity and harsh weather. Blooming spring through fall, 'Hallmark' will reach 12x15 inches when planted in full sun to partial shade. There isn't a whole lot that needs to be done after getting this plant in the ground other than giving it the admiration it deserves!

The gorgeous purple flowers of the 'Cooperi' ice plant make it almost hard to believe how low-maintenance it is. Its drought tolerance makes it a perfect option for rock gardens or those spots in the landscape where watering is not as convenient. When planted in a container, it needs water 2-3 times a week during the strongest heat of the summer. When established in the ground, natural rain fall is all this plant will need. This adaptable plant thrives with little care in full sun and matures to 4 inches tall and 2-3 feet wide. Blooming from summer to fall, the succulent green leaves will compliment the flowers making it a must for your landscape!

Nothing is more beautiful and low-maintenance than ice plants. 'Golden Wonder' will be sure to add color and texture to your yard with its succulent green carpets of hardy foliage covered with bright, bold yellow flowers. When planted in full sun it will grow to about 4 inches tall and 2-3 feet wide. The best part about ice plants is their extreme drought tolerance. Once established natural rainfall is all this plant will need. Nothing beats such an easy plant that adds bursts of brightness across the landscape!

Fill up your hot sunny areas with vibrant colors of the 'Orange Wonder' ice plant! This spreading semi-evergreen is exceptionally tolerant of drought and our Statesboro heat. When planted in a container, it needs water 2-3 times a week during the strongest heat of the summer. When established in the ground, natural rain fall is all this plant will need. 'Golden Wonder' thrives in full sun and quickly reaches 4 inches tall and 2-3 feet wide. Add splashes of brightness with hardly any work by adding this ice plant to your yard!

