

**City of Birmingham
Summer 2016 Newsletter**

Drought-Tolerant Plants

With the spring season approaching, it's time to consider which colorful array of flowers will be planted in your garden. One way to conserve water and plant a beautiful garden is to incorporate drought-tolerant plants around your home. Drought-tolerant plants naturally minimize water loss and maximize water intake. Some characteristics of these plant species include reduced leaf area, possess needles, or accumulate a layer of wax on leaves. To begin planting a drought-resistant landscape, consider the following:

- **Be Aware of Site Variations** – Different areas on your site can have various soil types and exposure to sun light which impacts the amount of water retained in the planting area.
- **Select Plants to Match Site Conditions** – Use plants that can grow under the existing site conditions.
- **Group Plants of Similar Needs** – Group plants that have similar water and sun exposure needs together and water demanding vegetation near moist areas.
- **Provide Care** – Initially drought-tolerant plants will require monitoring before establishing their root system. Apply mulch and water in order to develop healthy roots and eventually the plants will require less attention.

For more information on drought-tolerant plants, please visit the MSU Extension website at www.msue.anr.msu.edu.



Bottlebrush Buckeye



Silver Sage



Pink Grapefruit Yarrow