



## Info 13: Exotic Plants Suitable for Rolleston

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(Or any area with dry soils, low rainfall, cold winters and dry summers)

Mostly plants with a grey or silver foliage are ideal for the above conditions.

### Groundcovers

All *Lavender* species

*Nandina domestica* cultivars ie 'Gulfstream' – Bushy compact shrub to 2-3ft, hardy and evergreen

### Grasses

All *Dianella* species and cultivars ie 'Little Rev', all up to 30-40 cms, blue flowers

*Helictotrichon sempervirens* - evergreen perennial blue grass to 50cm high

### Shrubs

*Abelia grandiflora* - semi evergreen hardy shrub up to 1.8m high, white/pink flowers summer to autumn, great hedging plant

*Azara microphylla* – (Vanilla Tree). An evergreen small tree with brilliant scent, to 8m

*Banksia integrifolia*- (Coastal Banksia). Moderately frost hardy, plant amongst others, to 15m

*Berberis*- (*Barberry*). Brilliant red foliaged shrub and hardy to the dry and cold to 1.5m

*Callistemon* 'Red Cluster' - Great little Bottlebrush to 3m x 2m, hardy and attracts birds and bees

*Choisya ternata*- (Mexican Orange Blossom). Great stand alone shrub or hedge, hardy evergreen shrub to 2metres, white flowers

*Convolvulus cneorum* - prolific flowering Mediterranean silver-leafed shrub 60cm high by 1m wide, hardy, sun

*Cotinus coggygria* – (Smoke Bush). Intense purple deciduous shrub to 3m, frothy pink flowers

*Eriostemon Myoporoides* 'Profusion'- Hardy shrub with aromatic leaves with starry white flowers

*Escallonia* 'Fields Scarlet' and 'White Profusion' - Great plant for hedging, red and pink flowers respectively

*Euphorbia characias* 'Kea' – One of the Spurge. Compact evergreen shrub to 1m high, lime green flowers

*Leptospermum scoparium* – Australian varieties, pink flowering shrubs to 1.5m

*Leucadendron* species – Year-round foliage, great in the dry, to 2m high ie 'Safari Sunset'

*Lomandra* species – Great golden/green grassy species which stays looking good all year round. 1m high, 1m spread

*Lonicera nitida* - Boxleaf honeysuckle great hedge for the dry and cold areas

*Myrtus communis* - Evergreen bushy shrub to 3m with aromatic leaves

*Osteospermum* – (Cape Daisy). Brilliant perennial with pink to purple flowers

*Protea* species - Tough dry South African shrubs for full sun site with good drainage

*Prunus lusitanica* - Evergreen and great for hedging or topiary

*Raphiolepis* species – (Indian Hawthorne). Evergreen shrub with white flowers, protect from hard frost

*Rosmarinus* 'Tuscan Blue' - Evergreen shrub to 1m high, aromatic leaves, blue flowers

*Rosmarinus* *lavandulaceus* - Excellent trailing plant

*Teucrium fruticans* – (Silver Germander). Great for hedging to 2 metres, lavender-blue flowers

*Viburnum tinus* - Tough evergreen shrub, white flowering to 3m

*Viburnum* 'Emerald Beauty' – Evergreen shrub to 2m and 'Lucidum' to 3m

## Trees

*Acacia floribunda* – (Sallow Wattle) with its abundant scented yellow flowers

*Acacia pravissima* – (Ovens Wattle) with its striking foliage great for shelter

*Arbutus Unedo* – (Strawberry Tree) an evergreen tree from the Mediterranean with white flowers and red strawberry like fruit which is edible

*Azara microphylla* – (The Vanilla Tree) A great evergreen tree for shelter and screening

*Albizia julibrissin* – (Silk Tree). Umbrella-like shade tree with pink fluffy flowers in summer. Hardy and deciduous

*Alnus cordata* – (Italian Alder). Great for shelter or specimen tree, nitrogen fixing, holds leaves from September-June

*Carpinus betulus* – (Hornbeam). Has attractive leaves, deciduous, used for hedging or pleaching to 12m

*Cedrus atlantica* – (Atlas Cedar). From Morocco, a great specimen for open spaces, conical shape to 30m

*Cedrus deodara* – (Himalayan Cedar). Has a beautiful pyramidal shape, hardy to wind and attractive tree 25m

*Chamaecytisus palmensis* – (Tree Lucerne). A quick growing nursery crop that fixes nitrogen to the soil

All *Cupressus* species - Hardy to cold and dry, great hedging for shelter in Canterbury

*Eleagnus angustifolia* – (Russian Olive). An ornamental with silver foliage ideal for hedging

*Eucalyptus* species - Many of these will handle cold and dry conditions, ie, ***Eucalyptus leucoxylon***

**'Rosea' a good small gum to 7m with pink flowers**

*Fraxinus angustifolia* 'Raywoodii' – Wine-purple foliage in Autumn. Brilliant as an avenue tree to 10m

*Gleditsia tricanthos* var. *inermis* cultivars – (Honey Locust). With bright yellow leaves

*Grevillia* 'Scarlet Sprite' - Tough Australian ornamental shrub for the dry with red flowers to 1m x 1m

*Grevillia* 'Red Cloud' – Bushy shrub with grey foliage and red flowers, great for birds, avoid heavy frosts

*Kolreuteria paniculata* – (Golden Rain Tree). Yellow flowers and foliage in autumn to 10m

*Laurus nobilis* – (Bay Tree). Great for the potager or hedging

*Liquidamber styraciflua* and cultivar 'Worplesdon' - Brilliant autumn colour, a show stopper

*Malus ioensis* 'Plena' - (Ornamental Crabapple). Great for espaliering against a wall. Pink blossom, apples and autumn foliage amazing

*Olea europaea* – (Olive). A very durable tree in the dry, prune to keep bushy ie *Olea frantoio*, *Olea Leccino*, *Olea koroneiki*

*Phebalium squameum* – (Satin Wood). A great upright hedge for shelter from the wind!

*Photinia* 'Red Robin' - Brilliant red foliage and white flowers a bonus in spring

*Picea omorika* – (Serbian Spruce). A very handsome conical tree to 15m

*Platanus acerifolius* – (London Plane). Another tough tree in the wind and great as an avenue tree

*Pyrus calleryana* 'Aristocrat' - Outstanding autumn colour for this ornamental pear

*Quercus afares* – (Algerian Oak). A real tough one for Canterbury. Deciduous and Hardy

*Quercus cerris* – (Turkey Oak). Brilliant tough oak for Canterbury, autumn colour

*Quercus coccinea* – (Scarlet Oak). A real favourite for its' rich red autumn colour 20m

*Quercus faginea* – (Portuguese Oak). Dense upright tree for shade or a good hedge

*Quercus ilex* – (Holm Oak). A great tough evergreen oak with a rounded head

*Quercus robur* v. *fastigata* - A columnar oak used for driveways to 30 m

*Quercus petraea x robur* - Hybrid English Oak

*Quercus suber* – (Cork Oak). An evergreen Oak which is tough in the dry

*Sequoiadendron giganteum* – (Wellingtonia). A majestic tree for the future, real tough in the wind

*Sophora japonica* – (Japanese Pagoda Tree). Fine foliage and shade tree once established

*Sorbus aucuparia* – (Rowan). A small graceful that has white spring flowers followed by orange/red berries

*Ulmus* 'Frontier'- An American Hybrid cultivar with brilliant red foliage in autumn to 15m

*Ulmus hollandica* 'Dodens' – (Dutch Elm). A resilient park-like tree to 20m

*Ulmus parvifolia* – (Chinese Elm). With its serrated leaves another tough tree with beautiful bark to 15m tough!

*Zelkova serrata* – (Caucasian Elm). Serrated leaves and vase-shape tree with rich-gold foliage in autumn 20m