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Perennial Plants for
Dry, Sunny
Places

Genus (Group)	Species/Cultivar (type) Height	Comments	Photograph
Verbascum	<i>bombyciferum</i> Up to 2-3m high.	Striking architectural plant growing up to 3m with large, hairy, silvery leaves and yellow flowers.	
Euphorbia	range species and varieties (<i>E. mellifera</i> , with a honey-fragrance, pictured) <i>Various</i>	This is an excellent ground cover plant for large areas. But be careful as some varieties can be invasive. This is slug-proof but beware as the plant sap is a skin irritant to humans – use gloves when handling.	

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Libertia	<p>Various species</p> <p><i>L.formosa</i> (R) and <i>L. peregrinans</i> (L)</p> <p>Available in several varieties all 30cm or more high.</p>	<p>This New Zealand native with evergreen foliage has attractive spikes of flowers in the summer. These are followed by attractive seed pods.</p>	
Eschscholzia	<p><i>californica</i></p> <p>Californian poppy</p> <p>Up to 25cm high</p>	<p>In the UK this is a hardy annual plant that will flower all summer and then self-seed to provide flowers for next year.</p> <p>Great for filling gaps between perennial plants in a new border.</p>	
Iris	<p><i>germanica</i></p> <p>Up to 45cm high.</p>	<p>Bearded Iris are very different from our native yellow Iris and need to have full sun on their rhizomes, which are exposed above the soil.</p> <p>They are available in a wide range of colours and shapes.</p>	

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Corydalis	<i>lutea</i> Up to 40cm high.	<p>Also tolerates dry shade and will self-seed into paving and walls.</p> <p>The delicate foliage is decorated by tubular yellow flowers from spring to early autumn.</p> <p>Other varieties are available with blue or pink flowers.</p>	
Erigeron	<i>karvinskianus</i> 25cm high	<p>This pink and white daisy flowers from May through to October and will spread up to 1 metre.</p> <p>The plant will live through winter if the roots are well drained.</p>	
Thymus	<i>serpyllum</i> 25cm high	<p>Creeping variety of thyme that will happily grow in gravel creating an aromatic mat with flowers in the summer that will attract bees.</p>	

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Salvia	<p><i>nemorosa</i> 'Caradonna'</p> <p>Reaches 50cm high.</p>	<p>Mound of sage-like aromatic, grey-green foliage.</p> <p>Violet-blue flowers from June to October, which will attract bees and butterflies.</p>	
Artemisia	<p>Various species</p> <p><i>Artemisia</i> 'Silver King' is pictured.</p> <p><i>Artemisia</i> 'Powis Castle' has a more delicate divided leaf.</p> <p>60cm high</p>	<p>This evergreen, silver-leaved plant is used mainly for its attractive, aromatic foliage. But also has spikes of small yellow flowers in the late summer.</p> <p>It is a shrubby plant that should be pruned in the Spring using the same technique as that used for Lavender.</p>	
Phlomis	<p>Range of species and varieties.</p> <p><i>P. russeliana</i> – yellow flowers</p> <p><i>P. italica</i> – pink flowers - pictured</p> <p>From 30cm – 1.5m high.</p>	<p>This is a striking plant with unusual flower stalks.</p> <p>Species have tubular, hooded nettle-like flowers that are arranged around the stem.</p>	

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Lavendula	<p><i>angustifolia</i> – various varieties</p> <p>Will reach 45cm in height.</p>	<p>This needs a dry and sunny spot with very well drained soil to thrive.</p> <p>Prune lightly after flowering to remove the flower stalks and then shape and tidy the plant next spring but only cut into last year's growth or it will not regrow.</p>	
Allium	<p>Various species and varieties</p> <p>Various</p>	<p>These summer flowering bulbs have purple or white globes of flowers on long stalks, which look striking amongst other herbaceous plants or grasses.</p>	
Echinops	<p><i>ritro</i> and other species/varieties</p> <p>From 60cm to 5m high.</p>	<p>The Globe Thistle has attractive leaves with silver undersides and spherical, purple/blue flower heads in the late summer, which will attract pollinators to your garden.</p> <p>Does not need staking and can tolerate partial shade.</p>	
Eryngium	<p>Several different species and varieties</p> <p>From 45cm - 2.5m high.</p>	<p>Known as Sea Holly this spiny plant has variegated foliage, flowers in late summer and is ideal as a cut flower or in a dried arrangement.</p>	