



'GARDEN ANGEL' FACTSHEET

Surviving Drought in Style

- **BE PREPARED:** collect and store as much rainwater as you can. You could use water butts (there's a range of designs available to suit most sites) and fit them with lids to reduce evaporation. Or consider fitting a complete rainwater harvesting system.
- **CHOOSE PLANTS WHICH CAN COPE:** plants with silvery leaves and those which originate from drought prevalent zones such as the Mediterranean, South Africa or Mexico are generally well-adapted to coping with periods without water. New plants are vulnerable so cut down on bedding plants and choose seasonal bulbs instead.
Plant suggestions: Achillea, Artemisia, Ceanothus, Cistus, Euphorbia, Lavendula, Salvia, Santolina, Sedum. **Bulb suggestions:** Allium, Cyclamen, Nerine.
- **CHANGE YOUR MOWING REGIME:** do not water your lawn. Instead, raise the blades on your mower to cut higher and cut less frequently - longer grass will cast more shade on the roots helping conserve moisture in the soil.
- **POTS AND HANGING BASKETS:** mix water retaining gel into the compost. Group pots together to reduce evaporation and move out of direct sun if possible during prolonged dry periods.
- **COVER THE SOIL:** use mulches everywhere - on borders, vegetable plots and allotments, and over the surface of pots - to reduce evaporation. Try to top up mulches when the soil is damp for maximum effect. **Mulch materials:** grass cuttings, newspaper, compost, sawdust, bark, gravel, pebbles.

Designing with the environment in mind

The Garden Angel community keeps in touch through a free newsletter, which can be sent by e-mail, or by post. If you would like a copy, please contact us.

If you have any tips to share with our members we would love to hear from you. Please send them and/or your completed form to: Garden Angel, 9 - 11, Main Street, Whittington, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9JU. Or e-mail: gardenangel@angeltomney.co.uk

Angel Tomney
Design

(Midlands & North) 9-11, Main St. Whittington, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9JU
(Shropshire & Wales) Kenwick Grange, Ellesmere, Shrops, SY12 9AG