The genus *Hebe* does not immediately bring to mind water conservation. In fact, most *Hebe* species and cultivars require moderate water, about the same requirement as most *Rhododendron*. However, there are some exceptions and they are worth noting.

In general, plants with gray or silver and small leaves are more drought tolerant than plants with bright or dark green foliage and larger leaves. So, if you like *Hebe* in a more drought tolerant form, simply look for those with smaller and perhaps gray leaves. Next time you visit the Yamhill County Extension Office, check out the two kinds in the WaterWise Demonstration Garden!

The two kinds in our garden are *H. pinguifolia* ‘Pagei’ with small gray-green leaves and *H. ‘Broughton Dome’* with tiny dark green leaves. Both of them came from local nurseries. They both are dwarf shrubs, have smallish white flowers, and small leaves. Except for the driest of conditions, both kinds have done fairly well. That is a reminder to check the condition of plants periodically, even those known to be drought-tolerant, to make sure they are thriving. Both of these *Hebes* have also endured the past several winters quite well. Other species with similar characteristics to consider are *H. albicans*, *H. carnosula*, *H. glaucophylla*, and *H. topiaria*. If you want to try one of these, be sure to check the hardiness zone and growing characteristics before you buy.

In general, the genus likes full sun, and the drought-hardy ones are no exception. Although some of the more popular forms have purple flowers, the smaller gray-leaved forms seem to have white flowers instead. The genus is native to Australia and New Zealand; given the diversity of habitats in these countries, it is not too surprising that the genus *Hebe* includes a variety of adaptations as well.