



Xeriscaping

Xeriscape refers to a landscape that uses little supplemental water. It does not mean barren and it does not mean no maintenance. Like any garden, smart plant selection can make maintaining your yard less labor intensive.

It is not a landscape style or design, it is a concept of water conservation by plant choices. Xeriscape gardens can be designed to have the look of an English cottage garden, Southwestern, Japanese or whatever style suits you. By using plants that are well adapted, mulches that suppress weeds and conserve water, and a drip irrigation to make the most use of water, these gardens can have color and fragrance with only minimal care.

Xeriscape gardens require 1-2 years of regular watering to establish the plant root structure, then they can flourish on a reduced watering schedule. Fall is a great time to plant, because the cooler temperatures do not stress the plants.

Spring bulbs like tulips, lilies, crocus and daffodils are good choices, because they can grow with only the moisture from snow melt.



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Xeriscape™



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Water Efficient Landscaping

Xeriscape Fundamentals:

1. Take time to plan and design for water conservation and beauty.
2. Create practical turf areas of manageable sizes and appropriate grasses.
3. Irrigate efficiently by applying the right amount of water at the right time. Water using a drip irrigation system.
4. Prepare the soil by tilling and using amendments such as manure or compost as needed.
5. Select water efficient plants. Group plants together that have the same water and sun requirements.
6. Use mulches to reduce evaporation, keep the soil cool and discourage growth of unwanted vegetation.



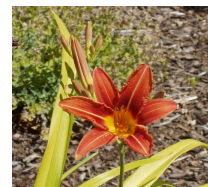
7. Maintain the landscape by mowing, weeding, pruning and fertilizing.

The Lawn Debate ...

Water is a finite resource, there is not an endless supply of clean water. It is important to conserve water regardless of where you live. Each year as much as 50% of the domestic water used by residential customers is applied to their yards.

Lawns are the largest water user in most yards. However, lawns have many environmental benefits and they can increase property value. On a hot day turf area will be cooler than decks, patios or dirt areas. Eight front lawns have the cooling effect of a 70 ton air conditioner. They act as a natural filter, they remove dust and they reduce pollutants as water passes through the root zone.

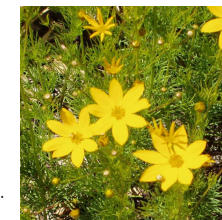
When designing your landscape determine the size of lawn your family needs. If the area is only for appearance consider using a ground cover that requires less water and less maintenance. You can have a beautiful yard that requires a fraction of the water by using the right plants and a drip irrigation system.



Resources:

When it comes time to choose your plants there are some good local resources. The WSU Chelan County Master Gardeners Cooperative Extension can be reached at 667-6540. In cooperation with the WSU Master Gardeners program the Chelan County PUD has a Xeriscape demonstration garden located in Riverfront Park. The local library has books on the subject. And there are many helpful sites on the internet that can be found by searching for "Xeriscape".

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Learn from our regional ancestors, keep heirloom plants. Many abandoned homesteads still have healthy stands of shrub roses, lilacs, pines, junipers, peonies and irises. These plants have survived the years without additional watering.