

Xeriscaping

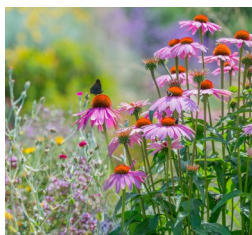


What's Xeriscaping?

Landscaping to reduce or eliminate the need to water plants outside of what is provided in rainstorms.

Ways to Reduce Watering

1. **Water-Wise Planning.** Consider where water is available in your yard and establish zones based on how easily water needs can be fulfilled. Runoff from hard surfaces can be directed to garden beds to support plants in the 'Oasis Zone'.
2. **Plant Choice.** Look for plants that are drought tolerant and do well in well draining or dry soils.
3. **Less Lawn.** Grass requires a lot of water, especially sun loving varieties.
4. **Save Your Rain for Later.** Use a rain barrel to capture stormwater runoff from your house to use when it's dry.
5. **Efficient Irrigation.** Establish swales and channels for stormwater to flow away from areas that need less water and towards areas that need more. Set up drip irrigation with rain barrels.
6. **Mulch.** Cover areas of bare soil will slow how quickly water evaporates from the soil as well as hold your soil in place.
7. **Maintain.** Use weed blocking layers or hand pull unwanted plants to allow water resources to be used where they are needed most.



Plant Recommendations

Pick plants that like dry or well-draining soils. Some of these plants can also add to your edible landscaping, pollinator gardens, groundcovers, and other lawn alternative efforts.

Some examples include lowbush blueberry, wild strawberry, and beach plum for edibles; echinacea, black-eyed Susan, and milkweed for pollinators; and creeping juniper for groundcovers.

Know Your Zones

- **Oasis Zone:** Usually closer to your house and water sources. This is an ideal area to capture water from hard surfaces like your roof. Keep plants with high water needs in this zone.
- **Transition Zone:** Add in plants or pathways that require less water here. Use swales or other irrigation to direct excess runoff to this zone.
- **Xeric Zone:** This is your driest zone which is typically on the outer edges of your property where it can be difficult to provide water. Use plants tolerant of dry soils in this area.