

# XERISCAPING

Xeriscaping is the process of landscaping or gardening that reduces or eliminates the need for supplemental water from irrigation. Fifty percent of the water used by the average household is for turfgrass and landscape plantings.

## ***Principles of Xeriscape***

### ***Planning & Design***

- South and West exposures result in the largest water loss. Save water in these locations by planting plants that are adapted to reduced water use.
- Steep slopes especially on South and West waste water, ground cover plants are great for slopes as well as terracing for less run off.

### ***Irrigation***

- Irrigating properly can lead to 30% - 80% of water savings.
- Check your system for broken sprinkler heads or areas where heads are watering that are not needed.
- If you have an automated irrigation system make sure you are irrigating areas of shade less than area of sun.
- Separate zones so shrubs are on a separate zone from grass.
- If possible add a drip system for shrubs, trees and flowers.
- Avoid frequent, shallow watering this will lead to shallow root development.

### ***Reduce Irrigated Turf***

- Avoid narrow strips of turf, hard to maintain corners, and isolated islands of grass that need more attention.
- Use more Drought Resistant Grass in the areas that are not used as much and reduce blue grass to more areas that are highly visible.

### ***Soil Preparation***

- A good soil supports healthy plant life. Know what soil you have to see how to treat your soil. Clay soil creates a compact, airless soil, Sandy Soils are opposite and they lose water rapidly.
- Add Organic matter to your garden each year.
- Amend the current soil with organic amendment before seeding/sodding 6-8" deep.

### ***Mulching***

- Apply mulches in flower and shrub beds this helps reduce water use and soil temperatures. Organic Mulches include straw, wood chips, bark. Inorganic mulches are rock and gravel

