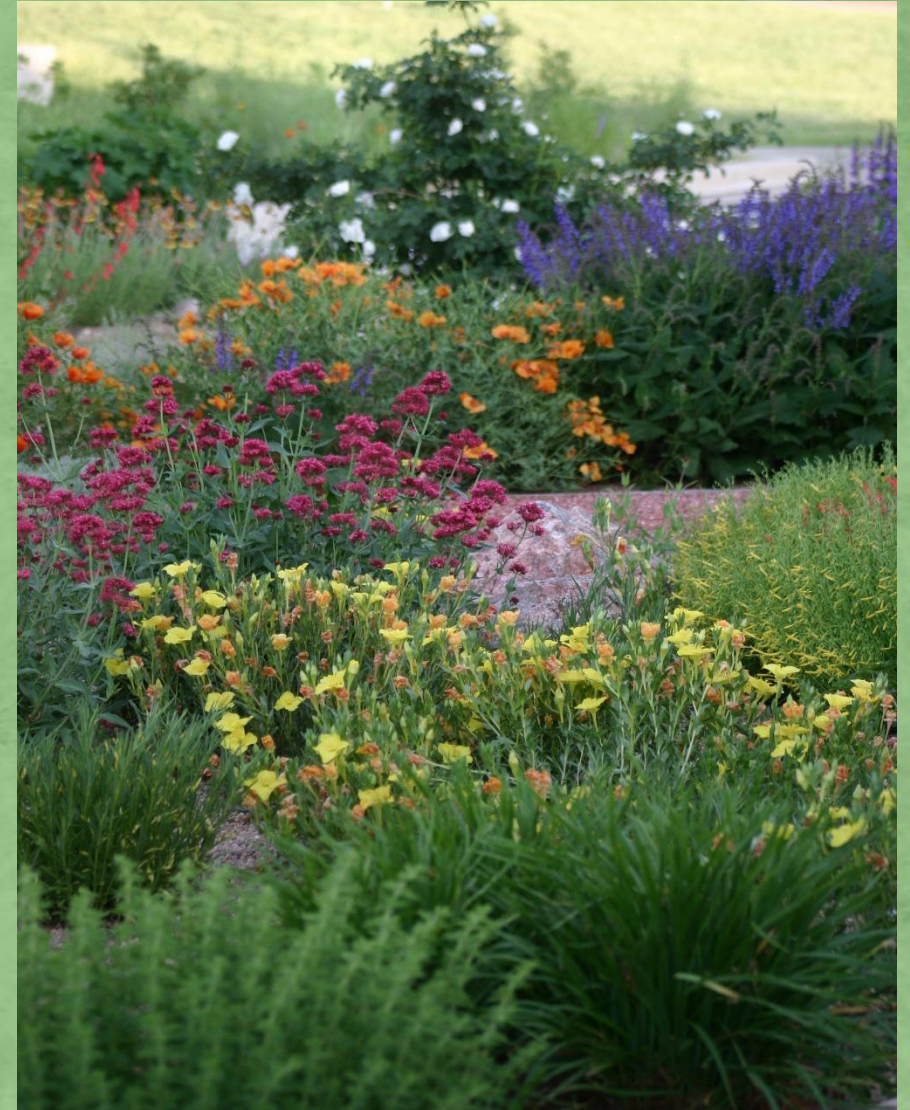


The 7 Principles of Xeriscape

Almost half of all the water we use at home is used to maintain the landscape. The problem is that while we live in Colorado, we have traditionally landscaped with plants that are native to regions with much higher annual precipitation. To successfully grow these plants, we must supplement the natural precipitation with our limited surface and groundwater. The use of plants with high water demands is not our only landscaping option; fortunately, neither is removing plants from the landscape.

The concept of Xeriscape was developed in Denver, Colorado, in response to water shortages in the 1980's. Xeriscape refers to a landscape that uses little supplemental water. It does not refer to a dry, barren landscape, nor is a Xeriscape a "no maintenance" landscape. By using plants that are well adapted, mulches that suppress weeds and conserve water, and efficient irrigation systems to make the most use of water, these landscapes can have color and fragrance with only monthly or seasonal gardening chores.



The 7 Principles of Xeriscape

Xeriscape is not a landscape style or garden design. Xeriscape is a concept of water conservation that may be applied to landscapes of any style, from traditional to English, Japanese to Southwestern. They may be formal or natural looking. The principles used to develop Xeriscapes are good horticultural practices applied to our unique High Plains desert environment.

Xeriscape incorporates seven water-conserving principles:

- ❖ PLANNING AND DESIGN
- ❖ EFFICIENT IRRIGATION
- ❖ USE OF MULCH
- ❖ SOIL PREPARATION
- ❖ APPROPRIATE USE OF TURF
- ❖ SELECTION OF LOW WATER USE PLANTS
- ❖ MAINTENANCE

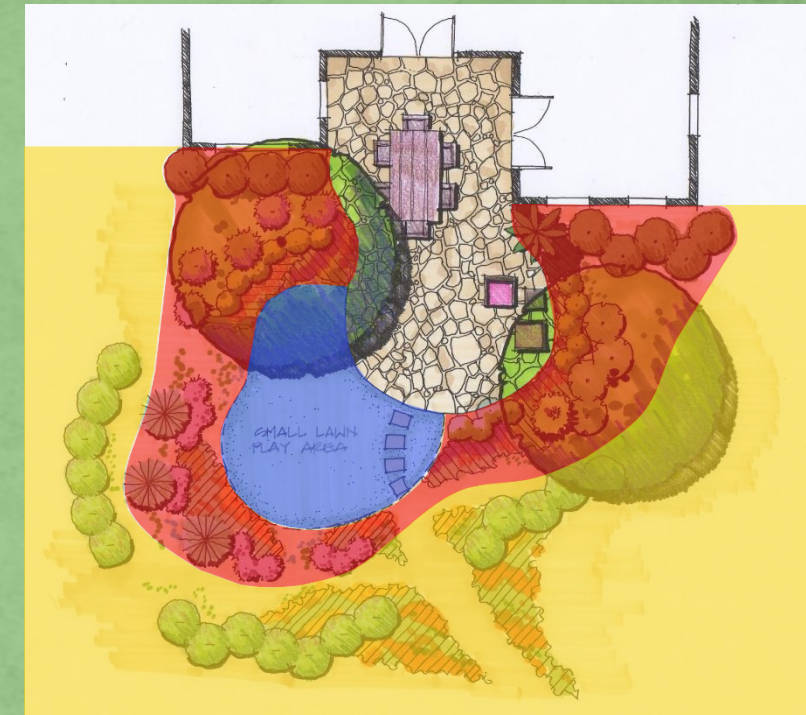
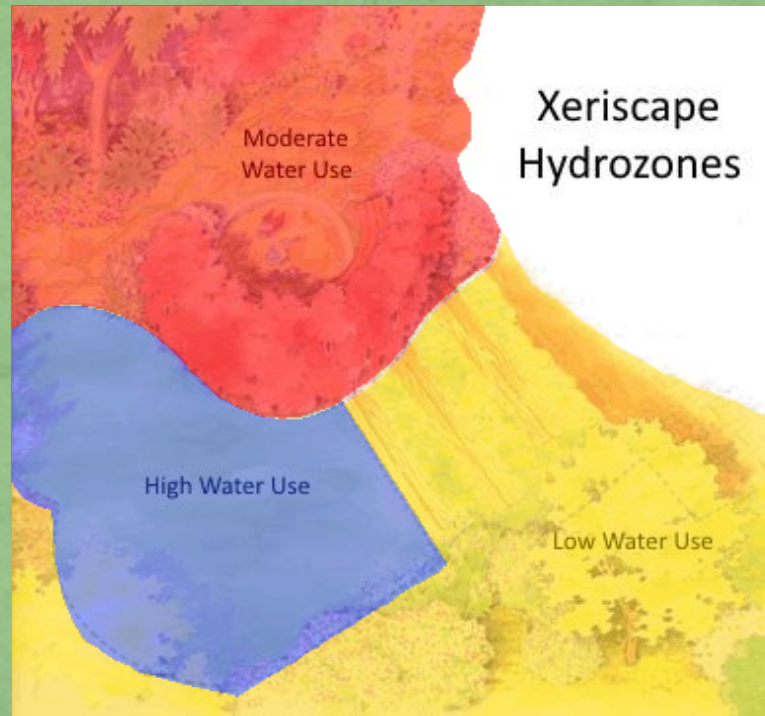


The 7 Principles of Xeriscape

PLANNING AND DESIGN... for water conservation and beauty from the start.

Divide your landscape into zones, each with different water requirements

- ❖ The “Oasis”
- ❖ The “Transition Zone”
- ❖ The “Low-Water-Use” zone



“HYDROZONING”

The 7 Principles of Xeriscape

IRRIGATE EFFICIENTLY... with properly designed systems (including hose-end equipment) and by applying the right amount of water at the right time.

- ❖ The oasis and moderate-water-use zones have the most need.
- ❖ Plan for irrigation even in the low-water-use zones.
- ❖ A xeric garden is only as water conserving as it is treated !



Water deeply and infrequently to encourage deeper rooted, more drought tolerant plants!

The 7 Principles of Xeriscape

USE MULCHES... such as woodchips, to reduce evaporation and to keep the soil cool.

- ❖ Organic mulches keep the soil moist and reflect less heat.
- ❖ Gravel or rock mulches may be more appropriate for non-crop areas or true xeric plants.



Mulch also limits weed growth and competition for water and nutrients.

The 7 Principles of Xeriscape

USE SOIL AMENDMENTS... like compost or manure as needed by the site and the type of plants used.

Soil preparation is an important part of successful xeriscaping

- ❖ In the oasis and moderate-water-use zones, add compost - 5 cubic yards/1000 sq. ft. minimum.
- ❖ Rototilling may be all that is needed in the low-water-use areas.



Add Organics!

The 7 Principles of Xeriscape

CREATE PRACTICAL TURF AREAS... of manageable sizes, shapes, and appropriate grasses (Buffalo Grass, Blue Grama, Dog Tuff™ Grass, Prairie seed mixes – even Bluegrass!)

- ❖ Limit turf to useful spaces.
- ❖ If you don't walk on it, you DON'T need it in bluegrass!



Not lawn-less landscaping, but “Less-Lawn” landscaping

The 7 Principles of Xeriscape

PLANT SELECTION... group plants of similar water needs together, then experiment to determine how much and how often to water the plants.

- ❖ Xeric plants depend on the formation of extensive root systems to effectively gather water for proper growth.
- ❖ While they may look unimpressive in nursery containers, they rapidly become beautiful plants in the landscape.



Choose plants that are known to use less water

The 7 Principles of Xeriscape

MAINTAIN THE LANDSCAPE PROPERLY... by mowing, weeding, pruning and fertilizing properly.

- ❖ Maintaining the landscape cannot be forgotten, even in a xeriscape.
- ❖ Includes seasonal adjustment of irrigation and pest management.



The final design will determine the level of
required maintenance

Xeriscape can be more attractive than traditional landscaping!



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Xeric Transformations



Xeric Transformations



Xeric Transformations





Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*)

- ❖ Blue grama is a warm-season perennial native grass found throughout the Great Plains of the United States.
- ❖ Under proper management, it makes a great low maintenance lawn. This is a bunch forming grass. Foot traffic should be limited.
- ❖ To prevent summer dormancy, provide 2 to 4" per growing month of combined irrigation and precipitation.
- ❖ Excessive irrigation and fertilization will promote weed and cool-season grass invasion.
- ❖ Mature height 10" to 16". Zone 3
- ❖ Full sun; well-drained soil preferred. Mow once a year in October. Max. Elev. 7,000 ft.



Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*)



Buffalo Grass (*Buchloë dactyloides*)

- ❖ Buffalo Grass is another warm-season species that makes a great lawn substitute.
- ❖ It is a sod forming grass that takes more foot traffic than blue grama.
- ❖ Establish by seed, plugs or sod. Can be mowed or left natural; quality turf can be maintained with minimal irrigation.
- ❖ Bison, Bowie, Plains and Topgun are best for seeded lawns. Legacy, Prestige and Turfalo are best for sodded lawns.
- ❖ Mature height 3" to 6". Zone 3
- ❖ Full sun; well-drained soil preferred. Deer will eat this grass! Max. Elev. 6,500 ft.



Buffalo Grass (*Buchloë dactyloides*)



Thyme (*Thymus* spp.)

- ❖ Thymes produce carpets of blossoms in shades of pink, purple and white. They can be creeping, mounding or shrub-like.
- ❖ Groundcover varieties can be walked on (“Stepables”) and make a great light traffic lawn substitute.
- ❖ All thymes have edible leaves and some degree of fragrance and flavor. A few are used for cooking and making tea.
- ❖ An evergreen plant, it prefers well-drained, average, neutral to alkaline soils.
- ❖ Mature height 2” to 12”, spread 18” to 24”.
Zone 4
- ❖ Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,500 ft.

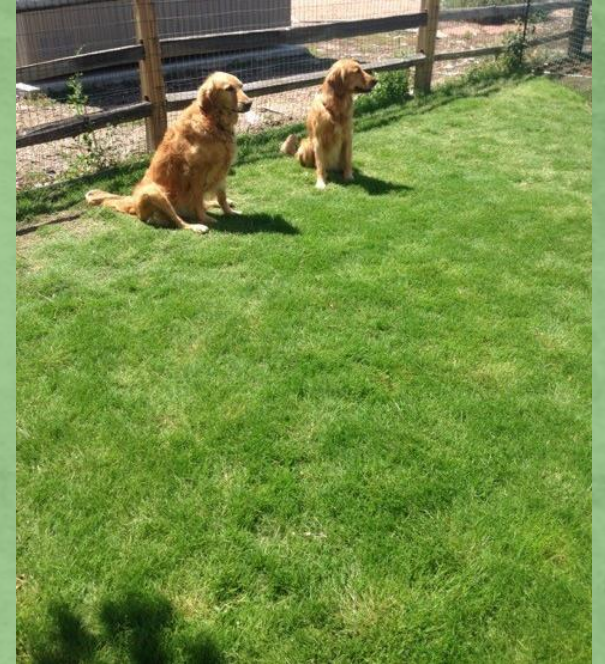


Thyme



Dog Tuff™ Grass (*Cynodon* 'PWIN04S')

- ❖ This Bermuda Grass selection is derived from African grasses similar to Buffalo Grass. A 2017 Plant Select® introduction.
- ❖ VERY drought tolerant, resistant to dog urine, recovers from heavy foot traffic quickly.
- ❖ Not tolerant of shade. It loves full sun and grows well on dry slopes.
- ❖ It greens up in early June and typically goes dormant in October.
- ❖ Mature height 2 ½" to 4"; can only be established from plugs, Zone 5
- ❖ Full sun, Max. Elev. 6,500 ft.



Dog Tuff™ Grass (*Cynodon* 'PWIN04S')



Dog Tuff™ Grass (*Cynodon* 'PWIN04S')

