

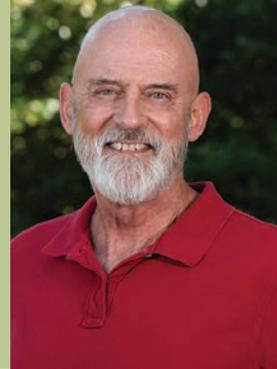
CASTLE PINES NORTH

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT™

December 2021

Craig's Corner

Our in-house horticulturist/arborist, Craig Miller, dispenses practical advice for those seeking to simultaneously conserve water and grow thriving, high-visual-impact, drought-tolerant (xeriscape) gardens and landscapes. Please email questions to craig@cpnmd.org.



XERISCAPING WILL SAVE YOU MONEY ON YOUR WATER BILL

I'm often asked, *"I know I should add some Xeriscape features, but will it really save me money on my water bills?"* My answer is always yes!

The Xeriscape concept was developed in Denver, Colorado, in response to water shortages in the 1980s. Xeriscape refers to a landscape that uses little supplemental water. It does not refer to a dry, barren landscape, nor is Xeriscape a "no maintenance" landscape.

As an example of water savings, the use of drip irrigation and drought-tolerant plant material in place of traditional bluegrass and sprinkler irrigation systems can reduce water consumption by as much as 60%. Adding mulch to planting beds can save up to 40% of the water used. The amount of water your Xeriscape uses will depend upon the size of your landscape, the plants you select, your watering habits, the local climate, soil, wind, and other factors.

By using plants that are well-adapted, mulches that suppress weeds and conserve water, and efficient irrigation systems, landscapes can provide color and fragrance while requiring only monthly or seasonal gardening chores. Planning to convert sections of your landscape to Xeriscape should begin early in the year, so plants have the best chance to acclimate and establish.



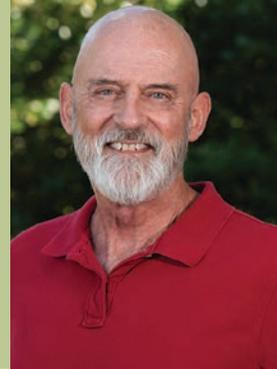
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XERIC PLANT OF THE MONTH

Bosnian Pine (*Pinus heldreichii* var. *leucodermis*) is a slow-growing pine (3" to 6" per year) that is a popular ornamental tree used extensively in Europe. With its thick evergreen foliage and full, pyramidal form, this tree closely resembles a densely branched, compact Austrian Pine. Young candle growth in the spring is grayish-white, and the needles are stiff and dark green.



This intriguing specimen tree is outstanding for small spaces and is also noted for its very decorative purple-blue cones that ripen to brown. It grows to a mature height of 15' to 25', with a spread of 10' to 15', and will tolerate a wide range of soils. It is tolerant of severe winter cold (hardy down to at least -49°F), salt spray, and severe wind exposure. Maximum elevation 8,000 feet.

