

Xeriscape Information



Xeriscaping is an environmentally friendly way to “live green”. The increasing

demands on water in the arid west makes xeriscaping one of the most practical methods to conserve water. Water wise landscapes can be both beautiful and functional, reflecting the dramatic natural landscapes found in the west. Xeriscaping is not a dry, dull, one size fits all style of garden design; rather it is the technique and art of selecting, grouping and watering plants appropriate to climate and soils. A xeric garden could be as natural and flowing as a “prairie garden” or as geometrical as a formal garden. It is all about the plants you use and how you choose to use them in your design. Xeriscaping includes an understanding of your specific climate, your soils and what plants will thrive within those perimeters.

Efficient water use requires finding tactics to create and maintain attractive landscapes without excessive water use. In the western United States, more than fifty percent of residential water is used to keep lawns and landscapes green. Xeriscaping can reduce this by up to 60% or more. Xeriscaping does not eliminate lawns, but it does incorporate more native and drought tolerant species of grasses and stresses irrigating them efficiently. Xeriscaping relies on an understanding of the natural environment and a good “sense of place”. Xeriscaping in Seattle’s wet, rainy, cool northwest climate is different than creating a xeric garden in the arid southwest but they would both use the same principles.

Seven Principles of Xeriscaping

[Plan and Design for Water Conservation](#)

[Soil Preparation](#)

[Create Practical Turf Areas](#)

[Irrigate Efficiently](#)

[Select Appropriate Plants](#)

[Mulch to Reduce Evaporation](#)



Properly Maintain Your Water Wise Garden



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