



SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO

# Water Conservancy District

*"Your investment in water"*

## Water Wise Demonstration Garden

### *Introduction to Xeriscape*

#### **What is Xeriscaping?**

Xeriscape is the art of creating water-conserving landscapes by selecting plants that are appropriate to the natural environment. The best xeriscapes use a fraction of the water needed by traditional lawn-dominated landscapes. Some xeric plants require little or no supplemental watering once they are established, and xeriscapes require far less ongoing maintenance.

More than fifty percent of residential water in the western United States is used to keep landscapes and lawns green. Xeriscape can reduce this by 60% or more.

Xeriscaping will help beautify your home and increase its value - as much as 15%! Using plants and landscaping that are native to the area in which you live can conserve water, time, money and the landscape will retain its beauty during times of drought. Step up and do your part to live green - xeriscape your yard and cut down on your water usage. It's the green thing to do!

#### **Seven Principles of Xeriscape**

- Planning and Design
- Soil Improvements
- Turf Alternatives
- Efficient Irrigation
- Plant Zones
- Mulches
- Proper Maintenance

#### **About the Garden**

The Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (SECWCD) Demonstration Water Wise Garden is situated on three acres surrounding the SECWCD office near the Pueblo Municipal Airport, just east of downtown Pueblo. Visitors are welcome seven days a week.

The garden is set up to help educate visitors about the techniques of water wise gardening. While walking through the garden a visitor can pick up plant lists and information on how the different areas are irrigated. The garden also contains an experimental grass plot area with ten different types of turf grass. Native grass lawns also surround the garden, which demonstrate the characteristics of various lawn seed mixes. The garden showcases many beautiful plants that flourish in Southeastern Colorado and the principles of xeriscaping are demonstrated throughout. There are many native plants used in the garden as well as regionally adapted ones.

Throughout the garden, birds and native pollinators are encouraged and protected by providing shelter, food sources, and water for them. You may also see checkered whiptail lizards, foxes, and rabbits while strolling around the SECWCD Demonstration Water Wise Garden.



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*More information can be found on our website:*

[www.secwcd.org/content/secwcd-water-wise-garden](http://www.secwcd.org/content/secwcd-water-wise-garden)

