

# Xeriscape Benefits

## Attractive Landscapes

- Xeriscape gardens are not only rock and cacti.
- They can provide you color all year, like an excellent environment for wildlife.
- They have an attractive, conventional look.
- Save you money, water, and work.

## Less Maintenance

- Xeriscape gardens, because they are efficient in the conservation of water and energy, require less maintenance and need less fertilizer and chemicals than a traditional garden.
- Xeriscape plants save you money, water, and work.

## Energy Conservation

- The costs of heating and air conditioning can be reduced considerably with proper orientation of the house and with a strategic location of the plants that block the wind and the Sun.
- Xeriscape gardens save you money, water, and work.

## Pest Tolerant

- Most xeriscape plants are highly tolerant to diseases and are also resistant to most harmful insects.
- Xeriscape plants save you money, water, and work.

## Drought Resistant

- Once established, xeriscape plants can survive with minimum water and become highly tolerant to droughts.
- Xeriscape plants save you money, water, and work.



**Knockout Rose**



**Texas Mountain Laurel**



**Rock Rose**

Chisholm Trail Special Utility District

# Xeriscape

Xeriscape means “water and energy conservation through creative landscaping.” “Xeros” is Greek and comes from the word “dry”.



**Esperanza  
(Yellow Bells)**

Chisholm Trail Special Utility District

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# Xeriscape Principles



Red Yucca

## 1) Planning and Design (The first and most important step)

- Consider the place where you will make the garden, existing vegetation, topography, and plant distribution according to the water requirements.
- Planning allows you to build your garden in stages, when time and money permits.
- Garden planting can be done by yourself or by a professional gardener.

## 2) Improving the Soil

- Soil can vary from one site to another, even on the same land. A garden soil analysis can provide valuable information to assist with plant selection and necessary fertilizers.
- Proper use of additives, such as nutrients, and organic materials improves drainage, penetration of moisture and soil, and water retention, therefore, allowing healthy plant growth

## 3) Appropriate Plant Selection

- The selection should be based on the ability of plants adapted to the chosen ground, color, texture, and final size of the plant.
- The plants must be distributed to obtain the desired aesthetic effect and should be grouped according to the respective needs of water.

## 4) Practical Lawn Areas

- The type and location of the grass must be the same way as with other plants.
- The grass must be treated as another garden element and be located where it can irrigate separately.

## 5) Efficient Irrigation

- Water plants only when they need it, deep water to stimulate root growth and to make plant growth healthier and more resistant to drought.
- Do not water on real hot or windy days.
- If you install an irrigation system, make sure the design is desirable and handle it in such a way that it would reduce the waste of water.

## 6) Mulch Use

- Mulch, when applied and maintained at depth in the gardens can help soil retain moisture, reduce the growth of weeds, and prevent erosion.
- Mulch can be used in places where conditions are not suitable for the growth of good grass and other vegetation.
- Mulch is typically made up of pieces of wood, sawdust, pine needles, nut rinds, small stones and leaves or garden waste.

## 7) Proper Maintenance

- Do not cut grass less than 1/3 of original grass height.
- Fertilize with moderation, remove weeds, and fan the garden regularly.
- Build small barriers to retain water around large plants and trees.
- A xeriscape type garden is healthier and uses a minimum amount of water, fertilizer, pesticides and other chemicals needed to keep the plants healthy.