

Xeriscape Garden Design

Xeriscape means water wise or water efficient landscaping. It does not mean Zero scape. The word is a combination of the Greek word for dry *xeros* and the word landscape. The term Xeriscape was developed in 1981 by the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado to describe a water efficient landscape.

The following 6 Steps of Xeriscape Design will help you create a practical and water conserving approach to landscape design and maintenance regardless of the garden style.

1. Planning and design. Planning is the most important step to successful water-wise gardening. Do not mix water-loving plants with drought tolerant plants. If you want water-loving plants, choose an area and have separate zoning.

2. Soil analysis. Soil testing is an important tool in plant health management. Tests can indicate nutrient status, pH, salinity, organic content, and texture. Improve the soil prior to planting. Or be sure to improve the soil with compost or other appropriate materials each year.

3. Appropriate plant selection. Use drought tolerant and native plants. Native plants are suited to our soil and climate because they have evolved here over millions of years. Native plants help save water and attract wildlife. They also are resistant to many pests.

4. Limit turf area. Lawn uses the most water in your garden. If you want a turf look, lawn can be replaced with less demanding materials such as ground covers.

5. Efficient irrigation. A well-planned irrigation system saves water and money. Shrubs, flowers, and ground covers can be watered with a low-volume drip irrigation. Irrigate at dusk or early in the day and under low wind conditions.

6. Use mulches. Mulches cover and cool the soil, minimize evaporation, reduce weed growth and soil erosion. Organic mulch examples include tree bark, chips, wood grindings, lawn clippings, and garden compost. Inorganic mulches are weed barrier cloth, rock and gravel products -- or even glass.

Enchanted Gardens

270 Avenida de Mesilla, Las Cruces, NM 88005

575-524-1886 gardens@zianet.com

OASIS ZONE

(water 2-3 times/week)

Tree:

Mexican Redbud
 Bradford Pear
 Crabapple

Evergreen Tree:

Large Shrub:

Rose Bush (tea or climber)
 Firethorn/Pyracantha
 Spanish Broom

Small Shrub:

Abelia grandiflora
 Heavenly Bamboo
 Cherry / Autumn Sage

Perennial:

Pincushion Flower
 Lantana
 Mexican Petunia
 Yellow Columbine
 Many Salvia species

Grasses:

Regal Mist
 Purple Fountain Grass

Groundcover:

Candytuft
 Snow in Summer
 Thyme

Annuals:

Zinnias
 Cosmos
 Marigolds

TRANSITION ZONE

(water weekly)

Tree:

Arizona ash
 Vitex/Chaste
 Texas Red Oak
 Screwbean Mesquite

Evergreen Tree:

Afghan Pine
 Rocky Mountain Juniper
 Texas Mountain Laurel

Large Shrub:

Apache Plume
 Red Bird of Paradise
 Yellow Bells
 Arizona Rosewood
 Texas Ranger

Small Shrub:

Russian Sage
 Indian Hawthorne

Perennial:

Penstemons
 Some Salvia species
 Guara
 Catmint
 Chocolate Flower

Grasses:

Miscanthus grasses
 Pennesetum grasses

Groundcover:

Mexican pink primrose
 Ice Plant
 Frog Fruit

Annuals:

California Poppies

XERIC ZONE

(water quarterly, once established)

Tree:

Desert Willow
 Texas Honey Mesquite
 Palo Verde
 Catclaw Acacia
 Whitethorn Acacia

Evergreen Tree:

Escarpment Live Oak
 Arizona cypress

Large Shrub:

Century Plant
 Many Yuccas
 Sotol
 Desert Broom
 Four Wing Salt Bush
 Desert Senna
 Dalea
 Bear Grass

Small Shrub:

Turpentine Bush
 Damianita

Perennial:

Desert Marigold
 Angelita Daisy
 Blackfoot Daisy
 Penstemons

Grasses:

Deer Grass
 Purple Three Awn
 Thread Grass

Groundcover:

Dalea greggii

To find more plants that are suitable for this area, visit the Office of the State Engineer's Interactive Plant List at <http://wuc.ose.state.nm.us/Plants/>. When searching, be sure to filter for Region = South.