

WHAT IS XERISCAPE?

Xeriscape is a systematic concept for saving water in landscaped areas. Our guide seeks to explain Xeriscape in order to begin a new, beautiful vision of landscaping for the future. A simple way to understand what Xeriscape **IS**, is through examining what it is **NOT**.

Xeriscape is NOT dry only.



Photo by: Charles Mann

Even though dry-only landscaping can be quite spectacularly colorful, and even lush, **limited areas** of more highly-watered landscape are completely consistent with wise water use. For example, heavily-irrigated athletic field turf makes sense, since it recovers quickly from heavy use.

Xeriscape is NOT native plants only.

Although there are vast arrays of wonderful plants indigenous to all regions, non-invasive introduced plants, that are well-adapted to the local regional climate, are wonderful additions to landscaping that uses water frugally. For example, many iris, tulips, and even roses are examples of introduced plants that are well adapted to non-irrigated landscaping in the Central Plains region.



Photo by: David Winger

Xeriscape is NOT just rocks and gravel.

Although dry (xeric) rock gardens can be truly marvelous, there are many wonderful choices other than rock for the xeric portions of Xeriscape designs. Xeric implies no added water. By definition, Xeriscape means some water applied in well-controlled amounts and locations in the landscape.



Photo by: Charles Mann

Xeriscape is NOT a boring mono-culture of spiny plants!

On the contrary, well planned Xeriscapes are splendid examples of the beauty and diversity that make neighbors envious!

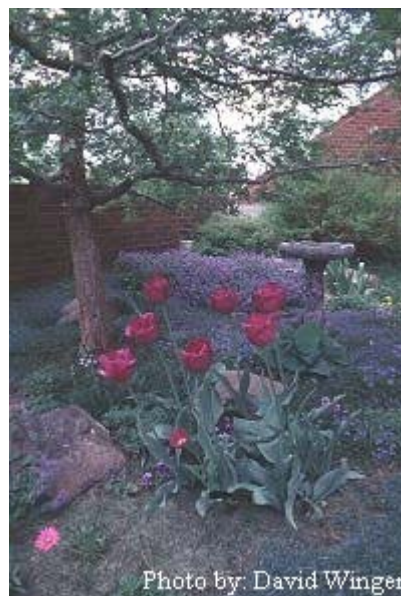


Photo by: David Winger

Xeriscape is NOT necessarily lawn-less landscaping.

Some lawns, even of species that are more highly watered, can be consistent with wise water use. "Less-lawn landscaping," rather than "Lawn-less landscaping" is an appropriate statement.

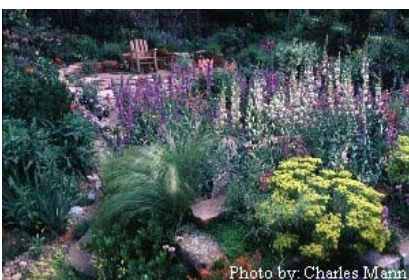


Photo by: Charles Mann



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Beautiful Landscapes and Water Conservation: How to Get Started!

Kansas-Specific Internet Resources:

- *Conserving Water in the Home Garden*, <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/hort2/mf2069.pdf>
- *Low Maintenance Landscaping*, <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/hort2/mf1046.pdf>
- *Low Water Use Plants for Kansas Landscapes*, <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/hort2/mf2067.pdf>
- *Maintaining Good Lawns with Less Water*, <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/hort2/mf2068.pdf>
- *Water Conservation in Home Landscape*, <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/hort2/MF2066.PDF>

Xeriscape Books:

- *Creating the Prairie Xeriscape*, Williams, Sara, Saskatchewan, University Extension Press, 1997.
- *Dry Garden, The*, Rurnary, Mark, edited by John Elsley, Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., New York, N.Y., 1995.
- *Dry-Land Gardening*, Bennett, Jennifer, Firefly, 1998.
- *Grow Native*, Huddleson, S. and M. Hussey, Boulder, CO: Fulcrum Press, 1997.
- *Landscaping for Water Conservation: Xeriscape*, Knox, Kim, ed., Jointly published by City of Aurora and Denver Water, Denver, CO, 1989.
- *Low Water Flower Gardener, The*, Johnson, Eric & Millard, Scott, Tucson, Ariz.: Ironwood Press, 1993.
- *Perennials for Dummies*, Tatroe, Marcia, IDG Books, Foster City, CA., 1997.
- *Plants for Natural Gardens*, Phillips, Judith, Santa Fe, Museum of New Mexico Press, 1995.
- *Prairie Garden, The*, Brune, Rick, Reprinted by the Colorado Native Plant Society, 1991, P.O. Box 200, Ft. Collins, CO 80522.
- *Undaunted Garden: Planting for Weather-Resilient Beauty, The*, Springer, Lauren, Fulcrum Publishing, 1994
- *Water Conservation in Landscape Design and Maintenance*, Robinette, Gary O., New York: Nostrand Reinhold, 1984.
- *Water-Efficient Landscape Guidelines*, Bennett, Richard E and Michael S. Hazinski, American Water Works Association, 1993.
- *Waterwise Gardening*, Springer, Lauren, New York: Prentise Hall Gardening, 1994.
- *Xeriscape Color Guide*, Winger David, Denver Water, Fulcrum Publishing, 1998.
- *Xeriscape Flower Gardener, The*, Knopf, Jim, Boulder, CO: Johnson Books, 1991.
- *Xeriscape Gardening, Water Conservation for the American Landscape*, Stephens, Tom, Doug Welsh and Connie Ellefson, New York, Macmillan Publishing, 1992.
- *Xeriscape Plant Guide*, Winger, David, ed., Denver Water, AWWA, Fulcrum Publishing, 1996.

Source:

- www.xeriscape.org/xeriscape.html

