

# Conserve Water With



# Xeriscape™



Hardin County Water District No. 2  
Your Water Professionals

Xeriscape™ is a word derived from the combination of a Greek word “Xeros” meaning dry and “scape” from the word “landscape.” It’s used to describe landscaping with water conservation as a major objective. Our definition of Xeriscape™ is “an attractive, sustainable landscape that conserves water and is based on sound horticultural practices.” In an attempt to reduce the excessive water use, Hardin County Water District No. 2 is educating its customers in Xeriscaping. This concept is a first-of-a-kind, comprehensive approach to landscaping for water conservation. Traditional landscapes may incorporate one or two principles of water conservation, but they do not utilize the entire concept to reduce landscape water use effectively.

Xeriscape™ landscaping incorporates seven basic principles which lead to saving water:

**The Basics** - Xeriscape™ is a method of landscaping that conserves water. It incorporates seven principles including planning and design, soil preparation, use of plants suited to the soil and climate, creating practical turf areas, use of mulches, efficient irrigation, and proper maintenance. You can incorporate the principles of Xeriscape™ and still have a lawn and a beautiful yard. The key is keeping the amount of water thirsty plants and grasses in your landscape to a minimum.

**Planning and Design** - Plan your landscape such that plants with similar water requirements are clustered together. Designate zones for areas requiring frequent watering, occasional watering, and no watering at all such as decks and patios. Be sure to match plants to yard conditions such as sunny, shady, dry or damp. When creating a landscape plan, take into consideration how the yard will be used and how it can provide the greatest benefit with the least amount of maintenance.

**Soil Preparation** - Proper soil preparation requires a combination of turning, aerating and enriching the soil with compost or fertilizer. A little extra work in the beginning will pay off with healthier plants that require less water to stay healthy.

**Plant Selection** - There are many resources available that will help you choose plants appropriate for your region that match your needs and tastes. See the resources listed at the bottom of the plant list, visit your local library or nursery.

**Creating Practical Turf Areas** - The type and location of turf areas should be incorporated into your overall landscape plan. Match turf areas to their intended

use, as well as topographical and soil conditions. For example, avoid using turf as a “fill in” material and placing turf in areas that are difficult to irrigate properly such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.

**Use of Mulches** - Mulches applied around planting beds aid in moisture retention, discourage weed growth, and provide essential nutrients as they decay. Mulches can also be used in areas not appropriate for planting. Materials can include bark, wood chips, pine straw, nut shells, gravel, crushed stone, or landscape clippings.

**Efficient Irrigation** - Efficient irrigation means applying water in the proper amount and only when necessary. Understand the different water requirements of the “zones” in your landscape, and check automatic sprinkler or drip irrigation systems periodically to ensure plants are receiving the water they need without being over watered. Proper irrigation will not only conserve water but promote deeper root growth resulting in a healthier, more drought tolerant landscape.

**Proper Maintenance** - Regular maintenance will not only preserve the beauty of your landscape but will keep it healthy. Maintenance needs of a carefully planned Xeriscape™ should decrease over time as plantings mature. By following the seven principles your landscape will require less watering, mowing, fertilizer and other chemicals to keep it looking great. By incorporating these seven principles, you can help preserve our most valuable resource-water. Xeriscape™ landscapes are not just cactus and rock gardens. They can be green, cool landscapes full of beautiful plants maintained with water-efficient practices.

**Come by our office or call to visit our  
water treatment plant and check out our  
Xeriscape displays.**



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# Xeriscaping Plant List

## Trees

Acer ginnala (Amur Maple)  
Amelanchier alnifolia (Saskatoon)  
Caragana (Caragana)  
Catalpa speciosa (Catalpa)  
Crataegus (Hawthorn)  
Eleagnus angustifolia (Russian Olive)  
Ginkgo biloba (Maidenhair Tree)  
Gymnocladus dioica (Kentucky Coffee Tree)  
Koelreuteria paniculata (Golden Rain Tree)  
Picea pungens (Colorado Spruce)  
Pinus aristata (Bristlecone Pine)  
Pinus ponderosa (Ponderosa Pine)  
Prunus armeniaca (Apricot)  
Prunus virginiana (Chokecherry)  
Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas Fir)  
Quercus macrocarpa (Burr Oak)  
Rhus typhina (Staghorn Sumac)  
Robinia (Locust)  
Salix matsudana 'Tortuosa' (Corkscrew Willow)  
Sophora japonica (Japanese Pagoda Tree)

## Shrubs

Artemesia trilobata (Bigleaf Sage)  
Buxus sempervirens (Boxwood)  
Cariopteris clandonensis (Blue Mist Shrub)  
Cercis canadensis (Eastern Redbud)  
Chaenomeles (Flowering Quince)  
Chrysothamnus nauseosus (Rabbitbrush)  
Cotinus (Smoke Bush)  
Cytisus (Broom)  
Eleagnus comutata (Wolf Willow)  
Euonymus alata (Winged Burning Bush)  
Exochorda (Pearl Bush)  
Fallugia paradoxa (Apache Plume)  
Forsythia (Forsythia)  
Hippophae rhamnoides (Sea Buckthorn)  
Holodiscus discolor (Ocean Spray)  
Juniperus scopulorum (Juniper)  
Kolkwitzia (Beautybush)  
Lonicera (Honeysuckle)  
Mahonia aquifolium Viburnum (Viburnum)  
Perovskia (Russian Sage)  
Philadelphus (Mock Orange)  
Physocarpus (Ninebark)  
Pinus mugho (Mugo Pines)  
Potentilla (Shrubby Cinquefoil)  
Prunus species (Flowering Almond)  
Rhus aromatica (Fragrant Sumac)  
Rhus glabra (Smooth Sumac)  
Rhus typhina (Staghorn Sumac)  
Ribes aurea (Golden Currant)  
Rosa (Rose-Shrub types)  
Rosa woodsii (Wood's Rose)  
Sambucus canadensis (Elderberry)  
Spirea species (Spirea)  
Symphoricarpos (Snowberry)  
Syringa species (Lilac)  
Tamarix (Tamarisk)  
Taxus (Yew)



## Perennials

Achillea (Yarrow)  
Agastache (Wild Hyssop)  
Anaphalis (Pearly Everlasting)  
Anemone patens (Prairie Crocus)  
Anemone pulsatilla (Pasque flower)  
Artemesia (Sage)  
Aster (Michaelmas Daisy)  
Aurinia (Basket of Gold)  
Callirhoe (Poppy Mallow)  
Campanula (Campanula)  
Centaurea (Perennial Bachelor Button)  
Centranthus (Valerian)  
Coriopsis (Tickseed)  
Dianthus (Pinks)  
Echinacea (Coneflower)  
Echinops (Globe Thistle)  
Epimedium (Bishop's Hat)  
Erigeron (Fleabane)  
Eriogonum umbellatum (Sulphur Flower)  
Eryngium (Sea Holly)  
Gaillardia (Gaillardia)  
Gypsophila (Baby's Breath)  
Helianthemum (Sun Rose)  
Iberis sempervirens (Candy Tuft)  
Iris (Iris)  
Lavandula (Lavender)  
Liatris (Gayfeather)  
Mamillaria vivpara (Purple Cactus)  
Oenothera (Evening Primrose)  
Opuntia (Prickly Pear Cactus)  
Papaver (Poppy)  
Penstemon (Penstemon)  
Physaria alyssoides (Bladderpod)  
Ratibida (Mexican Hat Plant)  
Salvia (Garden Sage)  
Santolina (Lavender Cotton)  
Verbascum (Mullein)  
Zauschneria (Hummingbird Trumpet)



## Annuals

Cosmos (Cosmos)  
Portulaca (Moss Rose)  
Eschscholzia (California Poppy)  
Salvia (Annual Sage)  
Gomphrena (Globe Amaranth)  
Tropaeolum (Nasturtium)  
Lavatera (Annual Mallow)  
Zinnia (Zinnia)

## Ground Covers

Alchemilla mollis (Lady's Mantle)  
Antennaria (Meadow Pussytoes)  
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi (Kinnickinick)  
Bergenia (Bergenia)  
Brunnera (Perennial Forget-me-not)  
Cerastium tomentosum (Snow in Summer)  
Cotoneaster (Cotoneaster)  
Delosperma (Hardy Ice Plant)  
Euphorbia (Spurge)

Galium (Sweet Woodruff)  
Genista lydia (Broom)  
Hemerocallis (Daylily)  
Heuchera (Coral Bells)  
Juniperus (Juniper)  
Lamium (Spotted Dead Nettle)  
Polygonum affine (Himalayan Fleece Flower)  
Sedum (Stonecrop)  
Sempervivum (Houseleek)  
Stachys (Lambs Ears)  
Thymus (Woolly Thyme)  
Yucca (Yucca)

## Ornamental Grasses

Arrhenatherum 'Variegatum' (Bulbous Oat Grass)  
Bouteloua gracilis (Blue grama)  
Calamagrostis a. 'Karl Foerster' (Feather Reed)  
Deschampsia (Tufted Hair Grass)  
Elymus (Wild Rye)  
Festuca ovina glauca (Blue Fescue)  
Helictotrichon sempervirens (Blue Oat Grass)  
Koeleria cristata (Prairie June Grass)  
Miscanthus sinensis (Chinese Silver Grass)  
Panicum virgatum (Switch Grass)  
Pennisetum alopecuroides (Hardy Fountain Grass)  
Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)

## Vines

Campsis radicans (Trumpetvine)  
Parthenocissus (Virginia Creeper)  
Vitis (Grape)  
Wisteria sinensis (Wisteria)



**For More Xeriscape Information  
and Photographs visit these  
web sites:  
<http://plants.usda.gov>  
[www.xeriscape.org](http://www.xeriscape.org)**