**WATER WISE LANDSCAPE DESIGN IN 5 EASY STEPS STARTS WITH GOOD PLANNING**

**Step 1:** Make a base map.

Measure and draw the yard. Include existing plants, watering systems, property lines, utility lines, buildings, pathways, etc.

**Step 2:** Take a look at the site.

On the base map, note wet/dry, cold/hot, sunny/shady, windy areas, gray water outlets, land contours, etc. Look at stormwater flows and where rain runs off the roof(s).

**Step 3:** How will the yard be used?

Design activity areas into the plan (play area, wildlife garden, outdoor entertaining, public areas, etc). Consider a service area to store yard equipment and a rainwater tank.

**Step 4:** Divide the yard into water use zones.

Section the yard into water use zones. Plan the irrigation system based on Mini-Oasis, Transition and Natural Zones.

**Step 5:** Create a master plan (see reverse).

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Xeriscaping follows seven simple principles that save water while creating a colorful landscape.

**THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF XERISCAPE AT A GLANCE**

**Principle 1:** Start with Careful Planning and Design

The most important step for water conservation and beauty.

**Principle 2:** Use and Place Plants Appropriately

Select plants with attributes that fit into the design. Give preference to drought-resistant plants. Group plants with similar water needs together.

**Principle 3:** Use Lawn Areas Sparingly, if Needed

Choose a manageable size and shape.

**Principle 4:** Irrigate Efficiently

Zone the irrigation system so plants with different water needs can be watered separately. Direct gray water and rainwater to plants. Expand the irrigation system as plants grow.

**Principle 5:** Use Soil Amendments, if Needed

Desert-adapted plants do not need soil amendments or fertilizers. Use for annuals, vegetables, and turf areas as needed.

**Principle 6:** Use Mulch

A two to four-inch layer of top-dressing, like gravel or woodchips, reduces evaporation, suppresses weeds and helps keep the ground cool.

**Principle 7:** Maintain the Landscape Properly

Landscapes that follow the principles of Xeriscaping require minimal maintenance.
Before beginning the planning steps outlined on the back panel, here are a few tips to make sure your new landscape is water-wise.

### Water Use Zones

**Mini-Oasis** – If high maintenance, regular water plants are desired, place them close to the home. Cut energy costs by planting deciduous vines near south and west walls for summer shade and winter sun. Direct roof runoff to plantings.

**Transition Zone** – Connect the mini-oasis and natural zone with moderate and low water use trees, shrubs and perennials that require water once every two to three weeks—or when established require no supplemental watering. Plant deciduous trees here to shade the house in the summer.

**Natural Zone** – Outside the transition zone, keep existing vegetation or select plants that survive on rainfall.

### Additional Tips

**Water Harvesting** – Greatly increase the amount of water captured by sculpting the land and directing rain to planted areas. Catch and store rainwater in covered containers for later use. Install a series of berms to slow, contain and divert runoff.

**Plant Selection** – For areas with hot southern and western exposures, choose plants that are well adapted to the climate and have lower water requirements. Select plants by botanical name to ensure that plants with the desired characteristics are planted.

**Mulch** – Top-dress the soil with two to four inches of crushed rock or organic mulch for weed reduction and to minimize evaporation. If desired, use breathable landscape fabric (NOT black plastic) under the mulch to block weeds while allowing air and water through. If black plastic is present, poke holes in it around a plant’s root zone.

**Water Correctly** – At the plant’s drip line, water to the root zone depth (1 ft. for flowers, 2 ft. for shrubs, and 3 ft. for trees). Water again when a screwdriver or thin smooth metal rod will not penetrate the ground more than four inches.

### PLANT IDEAS:

Many colorful, long-blooming plants are available for Xeriscaping. Here are a few varieties suitable for southwest landscapes.

**Groundcovers and Vines**

**Desert Marigold**

*Baileya multiradiata*

**Verbena**

*Glandularia bipinnatifida*

**Blackfoot Daisy**

*Melampodium leucanthum*

**Trailing Indigo Bush**

*Dalea greggi*

**Trailing Yellow Lantana**

*Lantana montevidensis*

**Silver Sage**

*Artemisia x ‘Powis Castle’*

**Tombstone Rose**

*Rosa banksiae ‘Lutea’*

**Succulents**

**Huachuca Agave**

*Agave paryli var. huachucensis*

**Queen Victoria Agave**

*Agave victoriae-reginae*

**Pincushion Cacti**

*Mammillaria spp.*

**Trees**

- Orchid Tree
  - *Bauhinia lunariodes*

- Desert Willow
  - *Chilopsis linearis*

- Little Leaf Ash
  - *Fraxinus greggi*

**Shrubs**

- Seminole Crape Myrtle
  - *Lagerstroemia indica ‘Seminole’*

- Autumn Sage
  - *Salvia greggi*

- Black Knight Butterfly Bush
  - *Buddleja davidii ‘Black Knight’*

**Grasses**

- Bear Grass
  - *Nolina microcarpa*

- Dry Stream Bed

**Boulders**

**Mini-Oasis – Regular water use**

**Transition Zone – Low to moderate water use**

**Natural Zone – Rainfall only**

Congratulations on designing a Xeriscape! A Water Wise landscape is a beautiful landscape!