



Newsletter Landscaping and Trails Committee

High Desert Gardening

April 2021

Many of us from other parts of the world have been introduced to the word, Xeriscape, as the way to garden in New Mexico. What is it and why use it?

Why Xeriscape? It's Beautiful and Saves Water and Money. A xeriscape is a landscape designed for arid climates that uses water-conserving elements, such as drought-tolerant plants, mulch, and efficient irrigation. The term is derived from the Greek word xeros, meaning dry, and should not be confused with the misnomer "zero-scape." A well-designed xeriscape is anything but a zero – it can be a shady refuge filled with many colors, scents and textures. A xeriscape can save water and money, and is easier to maintain because it works with the local ecology.

Have a Plan

Before you move a shovelful of dirt or plant a single flower, have an overall plan for your xeriscape. As that great gardener Yogi Berra once noted, "If you don't know where you're going, you might end up some- place else." Look at your site from a perspective of what it has to offer and what you want it to provide. Areas already shaded by the walls of the building or existing trees might become additional patio space to take advantage of existing cool spots, or you may want to plant trees or vines to shade

existing patios where summer sun makes them less usable because of the heat.



Rainwater from the roof and large paved surfaces can be collected and/or diverted for plants to use. This important source of "free" water may also help determine the placement of large shade trees.

Plant large shrubs with views, privacy screening and wind protection in mind. Consider the mature size of plants when you include them in

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your garden. Well-adapted plants will reach their maximum size fairly quickly. Over-planting wastes water and money.



If you have limited time or energy to invest in gardening, the places where you spend the most time or that you can see through your windows may be the focal points for color and accent, while the rest of the landscape is planned for very low maintenance. Whether you're an avid do-it-yourselfer who designs and plants your own garden or you use the services of a landscape design professional, the most important things to consider are how you want to use the space and how you want the space to look and feel. By considering these two key items, you are more likely to develop a well-designed xeriscape that meets your needs and provides beautiful, water-wise outdoor living space for you and your family.

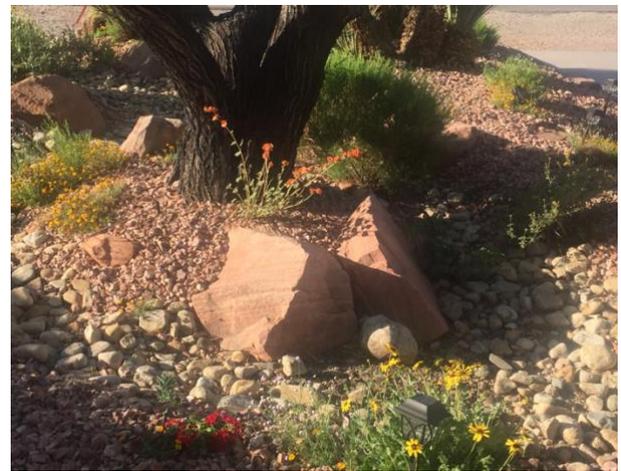
Desert Friendly Plants

Choose native and desert friendly plants whenever possible. From the low desert of southern New Mexico to the foothills of the northern mountains, there is an amazing diversity of water-wise plants that we can use in our gardens. Whether you want to have year-round green, blazing flowers or a subtle blend of texture and color that changes through the seasons, there are well-adapted plants that can fill the space on a modest water budget.

The Complete How-To Guide to Xeriscaping is published by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County *LTC Newsletter April 2021*

Water Utility Authority to help people make smart, water-efficient landscape decisions that are appropriate for our arid climate.

A list of plants that grow well in the region is provided at the back of this guide. This list provides basic information about each plant, and the plant's rebate allowance, where applicable. Photos and more detailed descriptions of featured plants from the list are provided in the front and middle portion of the book, along with tips on layout and design, planting, soil preparation, mulching, drip irrigation and more.



The above information is excerpts from Xeriscaping: The Complete How to Guide: https://www.505outside.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/XeriscapeHowTo-2020_06122020.pdf

Resources

NM Mexico's Enchanted Xeriscape Guide https://www.ose.state.nm.us/WUC/LearningXeriscape/XeriscapeGuide_ScreenResolution.pdf

A Guide to Water-Wise Landscaping in New Mexico: The Enchanted Xeriscape https://www.ose.state.nm.us/WUC/LearningXeriscape/XeriscapeGuide_ScreenResolution.pdf

Xeriscape 101: A Step-By-Step Guide to Creating a Water-Wise Yard
<https://www.ose.state.nm.us/WUC/PDF/Xeriscape101-2004.pdf>

A Water-Wise Guide to Trees
<https://www.ose.state.nm.us/WUCPDF/TreeBrochure.pdf>



WATER BY THE SEASONS WINTER WATERING RECOMMENDATIONS (DECEMBER THRU FEBRUARY) FOR GREATER ALBUQUERQUE		
Plant Type	How Often?	How Deep?
 TREES	1 TIME PER MONTH	24" INCHES
 SHRUBS	1 TIME PER MONTH	18" INCHES
 FLOWERING PLANTS	1 TIME PER MONTH	12" INCHES
 DESERT ACCENTS	NONE	12" INCHES
 GROUND COVER	1 TIME PER MONTH	8" INCHES
 GRASS: TURF (COOL SEASON)	2 TIMES PER MONTH	6" INCHES
 GRASS: TURF (WARM SEASON)	1 TIME PER MONTH	12" INCHES
 GRASS: ORNAMENTAL	1 TIME PER MONTH	18" INCHES
 VINES	1 TIME PER MONTH	12" INCHES

=MONTHLY
 =WEEKLY

Winter watering schedule from 505outside.

NURSERIES AND GARDEN CENTERS

<u>Albuquerque Nursery/Garden Center</u> <u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
AHL Garden Supply	1051 San Mateo Blvd SE
Alameda Greenhouse	9515 4th St NW
Albuquerque Garden Center	10120 Lomas Blvd NE · In Los Altos Park
Albuquerque Hydroponics	1051 San Mateo Blvd SE
Albuquerque Water Gardens	1800 Candelaria Rd NW
All Seasons Gardening	7900 Lorraine Ct NE STE B
Hanayagi, the Japanese Garden Shop	2935 Louisiana Blvd NE # C
Jackalope Albuquerque	6400 San Mateo Blvd NE
Jericho Nursery	101 Alameda Blvd NW
Osuna Nursery	501 Osuna Rd NE
Plant & Soil Organics	805 Nikanda Rd NE
Plants of the Southwest	6680 4th St NW
Rehm's Nursery and Garden Center	5801 Lomas Blvd NE