

Xeriscape
A Wise Way to Landscape
Be Water-Wise...It Makes Cents!
1993

Be Water Wise and Save Money

Do you have a thirsty lawn, sparsely dotted with trees, shrubs and flowerbeds? Do you work hard all summer to maintain your yard? Is the result a large water bill, insect and disease troubles?

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation has compiled the following figures for a lawn on a 33m x 17m (100 ft by 50 ft) lot;

- 33 hours of lawn work
- It will cost about \$400/year for a chemically dependent lawn
- It will use 14,000 litres of water/year
- 32 Kg (70 pounds) chemical fertilizers
- 21 Kg (46 pounds) of pesticides
- 13 Litres of gasoline for the lawn mower

Xeriscaping is a low maintenance, low water use gardening technique that results in lush, beautiful, healthy gardens that enhance your property. Established xeriscape gardens require less maintenance and have less insect/ disease problems than traditional gardens because;

- The soil is amended to hold water better and longer after a rainfall or watering
- Mulches are used
- Drought resistant plants are chosen
- The garden is planned creating spaces for specific purposes
- Proper irrigation techniques are employed

A Xeriscape Overview

Adopting xeriscape principles means making landscaping changes that are kind to the environment and save time, money and effort.

Tips

- Replace some of the lawn with alternatives such as clover or groundcovers
- Use decks and patios to cut down on the lawn areas and give you more outdoor living space.
- Fertilize carefully because over fertilizing promotes weak, succulent growth which is susceptible to insect and disease damage. Over fertilized plants also consume more water.
- Use shrubs, trees and fences as wind barriers to protect plants and soil from desiccation (drying out)
- When working with a limited budget, plan the garden but focus on one area at a time.