

**Be creative and have fun while creating your landscape, and conserve water at the same time!**



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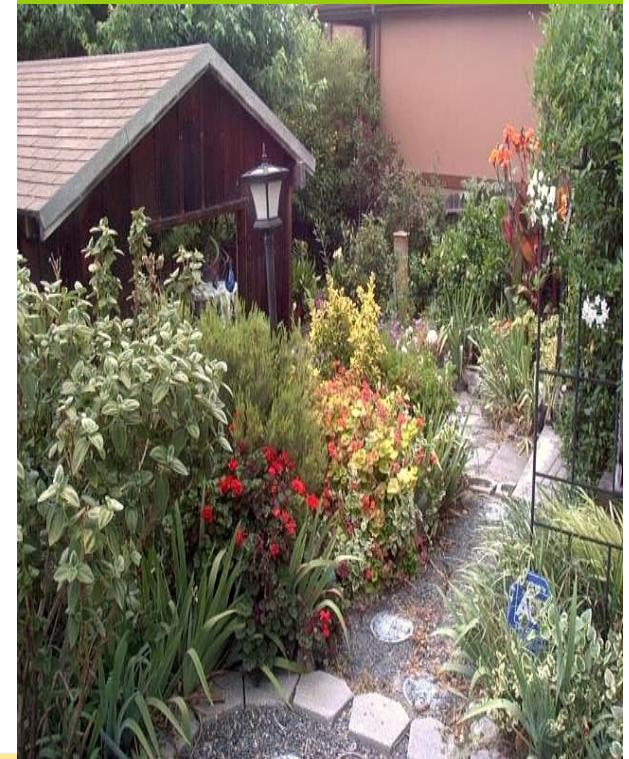
**For more information about conservation landscaping, contact your local water provider, landscape architect, or garden shop.**



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## **Helping you understand Conservation Landscaping**

**A Beautiful Way to Preserve  
Our Most Precious Natural Resource**



# XERISCAPE?

Homeowners are embracing conservation landscaping, or Xeriscape, with a passion and are discovering that conservation landscaping is not just rocks and cactus!

Conservation landscaping uses basic principles by



grouping plants into separate areas of the landscape according to their various water needs. The result is a significant reduction in the amount of water needed for plants to thrive.

Substantially reducing

**Xeriscape comes from the Greek word Xeros, meaning "dry"**

the amount of water used to support a landscape does not mean diminishing its beauty. Plant selection and placement are key elements of conservation landscaping. The use of low water-use

plants is only one aspect of water saving landscaping. Many medium or high water-use plants can be used if they are grouped and watered together by area.

## Types of Irrigation Areas

### FULL IRRIGATION AREAS

These areas are usually expanses of grass. Grass needs more water than other plants and should be placed only in areas that get a lot of use or are highly visible.

### MODERATE IRRIGATION AREAS

Plants and shrubs in these areas take advantage of some natural runoff from downspouts, driveways, and patios. For instance, an entry way using groundcovers and low or moderate-water-use shrubs will require little watering.

### LOW IRRIGATION AREAS

Border areas containing low- and moderate-water-demanding flowers, shrubs and trees provide the greatest water savings. Bubble or drip irrigation applies water directly to individual plants via small tubing or emitters. Drip irrigation saves water because only the plant's root receives water. Very little is lost to evaporation.

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**YOU CAN ENHANCE** your landscape by following these water-saving design suggestions:

- A tree's shade lowers air and soil temperature. In fact, air temperature may be reduced as much as 12° F to 20° F. This in turn, reduces the moisture loss of nearby plants. Evergreens block unsatisfactory views and lessen winds.

- Reduce grassy areas wherever possible. Although grass is still the most durable plant for traffic, it also requires the most water-3 to 4 feet in an average year!
- Place plants with high water requirements in areas that receive a lot of water naturally, like drainage ways, depressions, or at the bottom of hills.
- Slopes on hills should have ground cover or spreading plants that keep soil erosion down, but don't require mowing.
- Place shrubs away from the house's foundation. Frequent watering may damage the foundation.
- Use mulch in gardens, around shrubs and trees, in planting beds, and in borders. Mulches cover and cool the soil and discourage evaporation, weed growth, and erosion. Mulches also provide interesting textures that enhance the landscape. Organic mulches, like bark and wood chips, are the best. Inorganic mulches, like rock or gravel, also conserve water.

