

Xeriscaping Implementation Guide

This playbook provides step-by-step instructions for setting up a xeriscape, a type of landscaping designed to minimize water use. It is intended for landscapers and homeowners looking to create sustainable, low-water-use gardens.

Step 1: **Planning**

Research local climate, soil types, and native plants. Determine the landscape area and design a layout with zones based on water needs, considering factors such as sunlight exposure, terrain, and existing vegetation.

Step 2: **Soil Preparation**

Amend the soil to improve water retention and drainage. This typically involves adding organic material, such as compost, to the existing soil.

Step 3: **Plant Selection**

Choose plants that are native or adapted to the local climate and can thrive with minimal watering. Prioritize species with similar water requirements when grouping them together.

Step 4: **Irrigation**

Install a drip irrigation system or use soaker hoses to target water directly to the plant roots, minimizing waste. Only provide supplemental water as necessary.

Step 5: **Mulching**

Apply a layer of mulch around plants to reduce water evaporation, keep the soil cool, and prevent weed growth.

Step 6: **Maintenance**

Regularly check and maintain the landscape. This includes pruning, weeding, and monitoring the irrigation system to ensure it is functioning efficiently.

General Notes

Water Regulations

Check local water use regulations and restrictions that may influence xeriscaping plans and plant selection.

Wildlife Attraction

Consider how the xeriscape can provide habitat and food for local wildlife, promoting biodiversity.