Xeriscape Garden Design

Xeriscape means water wise or water efficient landscaping. It does not mean Zero scape. The word is a combination of the Greek word for dry \textit{xeros} and the word landscape. The term Xeriscape was developed in 1981 by the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado to describe a water efficient landscape.

The following 6 Steps of Xeriscape Design will help you create a practical and water conserving approach to landscape design and maintenance regardless of the garden style.

1. **Planning and design.** Planning is the most important step to successful water-wise gardening. Do not mix water-loving plants with drought tolerant plants. If you want water-loving plants, choose an area and have separate zoning.

2. **Soil analysis.** Soil testing is an important tool in plant health management. Tests can indicate nutrient status, pH, salinity, organic content, and texture. Improve the soil prior to planting. Or be sure to improve the soil with compost or other appropriate materials each year.

3. **Appropriate plant selection.** Use drought tolerant and native plants. Native plants are suited to our soil and climate because they have evolved here over millions of years. Native plants help save water and attract wildlife. They also are resistant to many pests.

4. **Limit turf area.** Lawn uses the most water in your garden. If you want a turf look, lawn can be replaced with less demanding materials such as ground covers.

5. **Efficient irrigation.** A well-planned irrigation system saves water and money. Shrubs, flowers, and ground covers can be watered with a low-volume drip irrigation. Irrigate at dusk or early in the day and under low wind conditions.

6. **Use mulches.** Mulches cover and cool the soil, minimize evaporation, reduce weed growth and soil erosion. Organic mulch examples include tree bark, chips, wood grindings, lawn clippings, and garden compost. Inorganic mulches are weed barrier cloth, rock and gravel products -- or even glass.

\textit{Enchanted Gardens}

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**OASIS ZONE**  
(water 2-3 times/week)  
*Tree:*  
Mexican Redbud  
Bradford Pear  
Crabapple  

*Evergreen Tree:*  

*Large Shrub:*  
Rose Bush (tea or climber)  
Firethorn/Pyracantha  
Spanish Broom  

*Small Shrub:*  
Abelia grandiflora  
Heavenly Bamboo  
Cherry/Autumn Sage  

*Perennial:*  
Pincushion Flower  
Lantana  
Mexican Petunia  
Yellow Columbine  
Many Salvia species  

*Grasses:*  
Regal Mist  
Purple Fountain Grass  

*Groundcover:*  
Candytuft  
Snow in Summer  
Thyme  

*Annuals:*  
Zinnias  
Cosmos  
Marigolds

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**TRANSITION ZONE**  
(water weekly)  
*Tree:*  
Arizona ash  
Vitex/Chaste  
Texas Red Oak  
Screwbean Mesquite  

*Evergreen Tree:*  
Afghan Pine  
Rocky Mountain Juniper  
Texas Mountain Laurel  

*Large Shrub:*  
Apache Plume  
Red Bird of Paradise  
Yellow Bells  
Arizona Rosewood  
Texas Ranger  

*Small Shrub:*  
Russian Sage  
Indian Hawthorne  

*Perennial:*  
Penstemons  
Some Salvia species  
Guara  
Catmint  
Chocolate Flower  

*Grasses:*  
Miscanthus grasses  
Pennisetum grasses  

*Groundcover:*  
Mexican pink primrose  
Ice Plant  
Frog Fruit  

*Annuals:*  
California Poppies

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**XERIC ZONE**  
(water quarterly, once established)  
*Tree:*  
Desert Willow  
Texas Honey Mesquite  
Palo Verde  
Catclaw Acacia  
Whitethorn Acacia  

*Evergreen Tree:*  
EscarPMENT Live Oak  
Arizona cypress  

*Large Shrub:*  
Century Plant  
Many Yuccas  
Sotol  
Desert Broom  
Four Wing Salt Bush  
Desert Senna  
Dalea  
Bear Grass  

*Small Shrub:*  
Turpentine Bush  
Damianita  

*Perennial:*  
Desert Marigold  
Angelita Daisy  
Blackfoot Daisy  
Penstemons  

*Grasses:*  
Deer Grass  
Purple Three Awn  
Thread Grass  

*Groundcover:*  
Dalea greggii

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To find more plants that are suitable for this area, visit the Office of the State Engineer's Interactive Plant List at http://wuc.ose.state.nm.us/Plants/. When searching, be sure to filter for Region = South.