

Smart Water Use in Chino Valley

Tip #6: Xeriscape

Xeriscape is a proven seven-step low-maintenance landscaping method designed to provide attractive outdoor living spaces using water-smart plants, trees and shrubs.



Xeriscape is NOT simply a “zeroscape” or “gravelscape.”



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The 7 Principles of Xeriscape

1. Plan and Design

Develop a design plan considering view, slope, exposure, soil and practical use of space. Group plants according to light and water needs.

2. Evaluate and Amend the Soil

Most plants and turf areas require some organic compost. Collect a soil sample for testing at the County Extension Agency and fertilize accordingly.

3. Select Low-Water Use Plants

A variety of native and ornamental plants are suitable for Xeriscape. These can be divided into very low, low and moderate water demands. Consider long-term water demand, mature size and maintenance needs when choosing plants.

4. Limit Turf Area

Native grasses, groundcovers and wildflowers can provide attractive alternatives to non-native turf. Check with your Homeowner's Association for applicable restrictions on allowable turf size.

5. Irrigate Efficiently

Design an efficient watering system during the planning phase. Permit, install and maintain the required backflow prevention device. Adjust watering systems to account for plant maturity, topography and seasonal precipitation. Automatic rain sensors prevent unnecessary watering.

6. Mulch

Mulch minimizes evaporation, reduces weed growth, slows erosion, and helps prevent soil temperature fluctuations. Organic mulch such as wood chips or bark is best. Rock mulch traps heat and works best only in unplanted areas.

7. Maintain the landscape.

Xeriscape requires less maintenance than traditional landscape styles; however, seasonal maintenance ensures outdoor living areas remain healthy and water-smart. Check sprinkler heads weekly for clogs or damage.

For additional information:

Contact the Chino Valley Water Resource Department to request a copy of: ***Xeriscape: Landscaping with Style in the Arizona Desert***



Town of Chino Valley
Water Resource Department
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Chino Valley, AZ 86323
928-636-7140

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