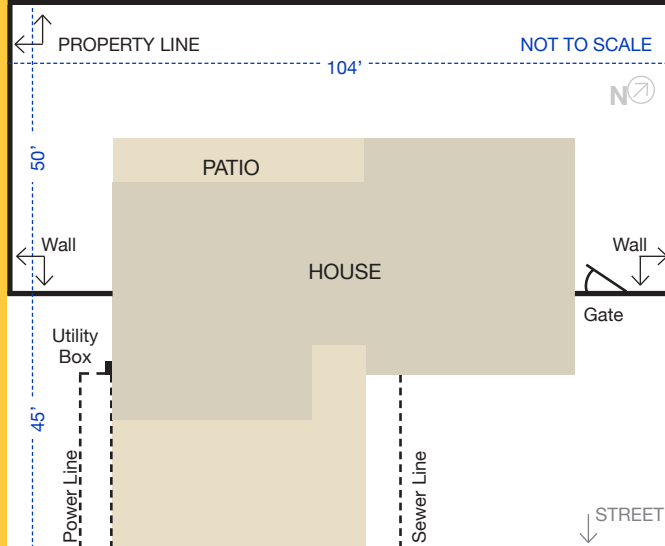


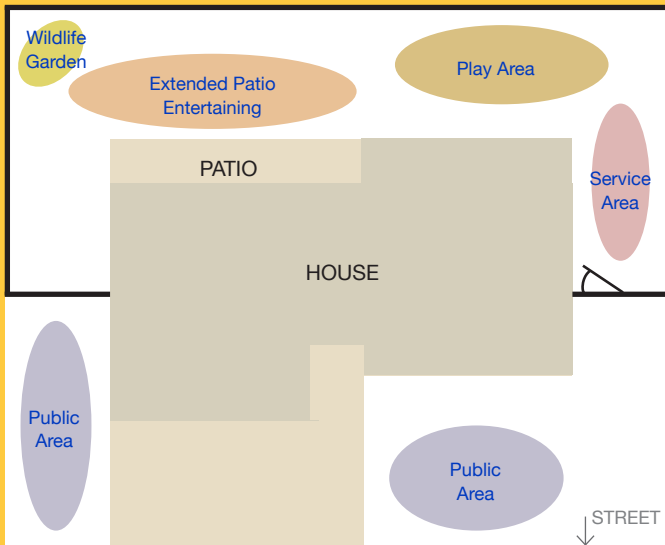
WATER WISE LANDSCAPE DESIGN IN 5 EASY STEPS STARTS WITH GOOD PLANNING

Step 1: Make a base map.



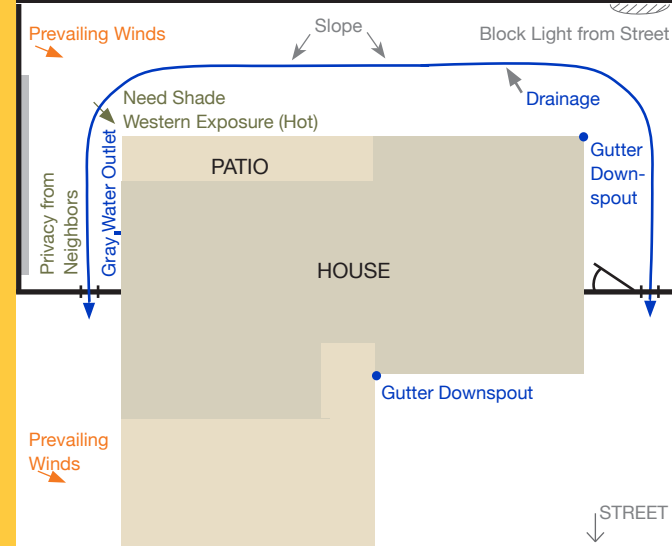
Measure and draw the yard. Include existing plants, watering systems, property lines, utility lines, buildings, pathways, etc.

Step 3: How will the yard be used?



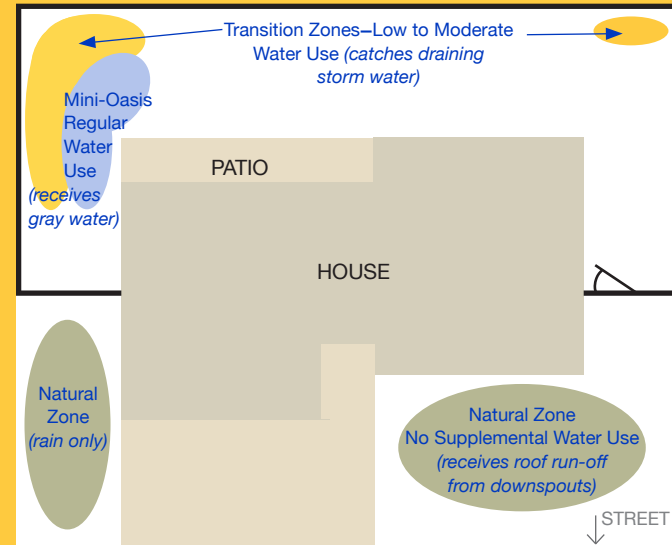
Design activity areas into the plan (play area, wildlife garden, outdoor entertaining, public areas, etc). Consider a service area to store yard equipment and a rainwater tank.

Step 2: Take a look at the site.



On the base map, note wet/dry, cold/hot, sunny/shady, windy areas, gray water outlets, land contours, etc. Look at stormwater flows and where rain runs off the roof(s).

Step 4: Divide the yard into water use zones.



Section the yard into water use zones. Plan the irrigation system based on Mini-Oasis, Transition and Natural Zones.

Step 5: Create a master plan (see reverse).

Xeriscaping follows seven simple principles that save water while creating a colorful landscape.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF XERISCAPE AT A GLANCE

Principle 1: Start with Careful Planning and Design

The most important step for water conservation and beauty.

Principle 2: Use and Place Plants Appropriately

Select plants with attributes that fit into the design. Give preference to drought-resistant plants. Group plants with similar water needs together.

Principle 3: Use Lawn Areas Sparingly, if Needed

Choose a manageable size and shape.

Principle 4: Irrigate Efficiently

Zone the irrigation system so plants with different water needs can be watered separately. Direct gray water and rainwater to plants. Expand the irrigation system as plants grow.

Principle 5: Use Soil Amendments, if Needed

Desert-adapted plants do not need soil amendments or fertilizers. Use for annuals, vegetables, and turf areas as needed.

Principle 6: Use Mulch

A two to four-inch layer of top-dressing, like gravel or woodchips, reduces evaporation, suppresses weeds and helps keep the ground cool.

Principle 7: Maintain the Landscape Properly

Landscapes that follow the principles of Xeriscaping require minimal maintenance.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85721

CYNDI WILKINS
Instructional Specialist, Senior

CADO DAILY
Program Coordinator, Senior

ROBERT E. CALL
Horticulture Area Agent

Partially Funded by Fort Huachuca, U.S. Army

Special thanks to Diane Liggett, Cochise County Master Gardener and The University of Arizona Campus Arboretum

CONTACT:
ROBERT E. CALL
recall@ag.arizona.edu

This information has been reviewed by University faculty.
cals.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/az1497.pdf

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, James A. Christenson, Director, Cooperative Extension, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, The University of Arizona.
The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation in its programs and activities.

Water Wise Landscape Design

in
5
Easy Steps

Xeriscape principles can be applied to a new or existing yard to create a low-maintenance and water-efficient landscape.

AZ1497
August 2009

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

cals.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/az1497.pdf



XERISCAPES (zir-ih-scapes) are attractive, colorful, low water and low maintenance landscapes. A lovely landscape can be designed to fit your needs and site by following the five easy steps outlined in this brochure.

Before beginning the planning steps located on the back panel, here are a few tips to make sure your new landscape is water-wise.

Water Use Zones

Mini-Oasis – If high maintenance, regular water plants are desired, place them close to the home. Cut energy costs by planting deciduous vines near south and west walls for summer shade and winter sun. Direct roof runoff to plantings.

Transition Zone – Connect the mini-oasis and natural zone with moderate and low water use trees, shrubs and perennials that require water once every two to three weeks—or when established require no supplemental watering. Plant deciduous trees here to shade the house in the summer.

Natural Zone – Outside the transition zone, keep existing vegetation or select plants that survive on rainfall.

Additional Tips

Water Harvesting – Greatly increase the amount of water captured by sculpting the land and directing rain to planted areas. Catch and store rainwater in covered containers for later use. Install a series of berms to slow, contain and divert runoff.

Plant Selection – For areas with hot southern and western exposures, choose plants that are well adapted to the climate and have lower water requirements. Select plants by botanical name to ensure that plants with the desired characteristics are planted.

Mulch – Top-dress the soil with two to four inches of crushed rock or organic mulch for weed reduction and to minimize evaporation. If desired, use breathable landscape fabric (NOT black plastic) under the mulch to block weeds while allowing air and water through. If black plastic is present, poke holes in it around a plant's root zone.

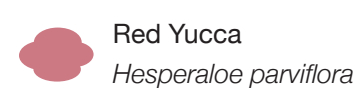
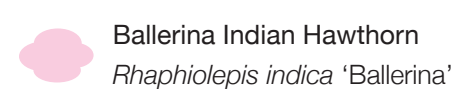
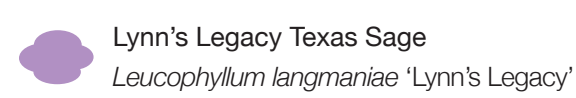
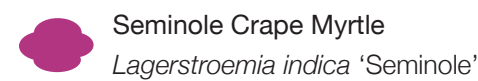
Water Correctly – At the plant's drip line, water to the root zone depth (1 ft. for flowers, 2 ft. for shrubs, and 3 ft. for trees). Water again when a screwdriver or thin smooth metal rod will not penetrate the ground more than four inches.

PLANT IDEAS: Many colorful, long-blooming plants are available for Xeriscaping. Here are a few varieties suitable for southwest landscapes.

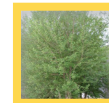
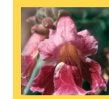
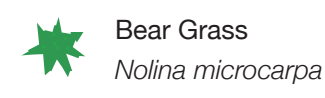
Trees



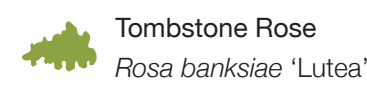
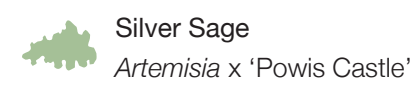
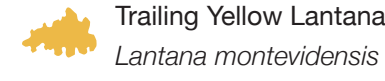
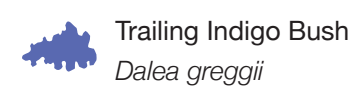
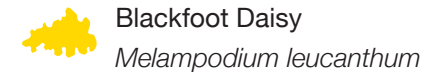
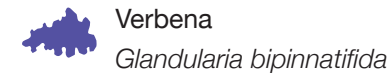
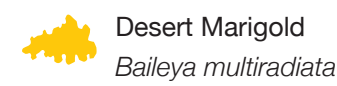
Shrubs



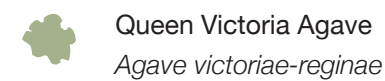
Grasses






Groundcovers and Vines



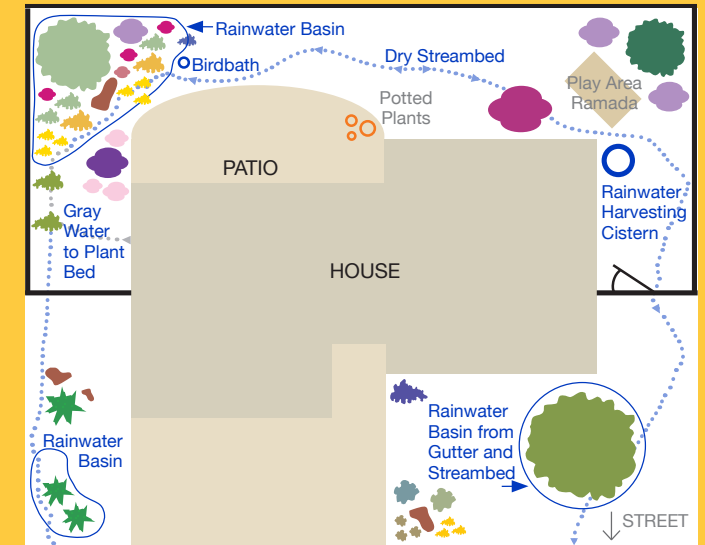
Succulents



-  **Mini-Oasis** – Regular water use
-  **Transition Zone** – Low to moderate water use
-  **Natural Zone** – Rainfall only

THE MASTER PLAN

Step 5: After completing Steps 1 through 4 (see reverse), put it all together into a final design.



First, draw the new structural elements (patios, walkways, arbors, boulders, etc.) on the plan. Then add the water harvesting elements (berms, basins, catchment containers, dry streambeds, gray water). When selecting appropriate plants, keep in mind their characteristics including mature size. Finally, place the plants in the correct water use zones: mini-oasis, transition, or natural.

Congratulations on designing a Xeriscape!

A *Water Wise* landscape is a beautiful landscape!

