

# Water Smart™

## LANDSCAPE PRINCIPLES

A proven seven step low maintenance landscaping method results in attractive outdoor living spaces using water smart plants, trees and shrubs.

Research plants and the site in relation to sun, soils, water and maintenance demands. Consider site geography, wildlife, views and privacy.



## THE 7 PRINCIPLES

- 1 Design a Plan** – Sketch area including existing and proposed walkways, outdoor spaces, structures and planted areas. Group plants, trees and shrubs with similar light and water needs on the same irrigation zone. Consider how outdoor spaces will be used, and their function to indoor spaces.
- 2 Amend the Soil** – Most plant and turf areas require some organic compost; native plants are the exception. Improve soil during site preparation, especially turf areas for long term water saving and turf health.

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- 3 Select Low Water Use Plants** – A variety of native plants, available through local nurseries, are suitable for water smart landscaping. They are divided into three categories: very low, low, and moderate water use. Consider the long term water demand, fire resistance, mature size and maintenance needed.

- 4 Create a Practical Lawn Area** – Lawns have a place in water smart landscapes. Options include seasonal native grasses, turf, ground covers and native wildflowers. Consider at least 6" of top soil during site prep, estimate long term water demand, maintenance and cost.



- 5 Install an Irrigation System** – Design an efficient watering system during the planning phase. Permit and install the required backflow prevention device. Hydrozone trees, shrubs and turf areas. Adjust watering systems to account for plant maturity, topography and seasonal precipitation.
- 6 Mulch Top Dress** – Install 2 to 3" of mulch or rock over a woven fabric weed barrier. Shredded wood chips and garden compost help conserve soil moisture. Decomposed granite and select rock types work best in unplanted areas. Consider pre-and post-emergent to reduce weed growth.
- 7 Maintain the Landscape** – Seasonal maintenance and an efficient irrigation system will ensure outdoor living areas remain healthy and water smart.

For more information and helpful community links, visit the Coalition website at

[www.uvrwpc.org](http://www.uvrwpc.org)



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