



Xeriscape

Why choose Xeriscape and what is it? The main idea of Xeriscape is to save money in the long term. Xeriscape is important because it can minimize water usage by around 50% [LA Public Works] compared to conventional landscaping as well as increase property value by 15% [Ecowatch]. Utilizing slow-growing native plants ensures that less maintenance will be required while simultaneously reducing your water usage. That's more money in your pocket and less on your water bill. And if saving money wasn't enough, pollinators LOVE native plants!

Traditional landscape utilizes any number of non-native plants, shrubs, flowers or grass that require a high-maintenance irrigation schedule. Using native plants, which are engineered to survive in this region, requires less maintenance and less water. Slow-growing native plants require less maintenance which, in turn, also means less plant waste in your green bin which also lessens the burden of the local refuse station having to convert all those clippings and trimmings into compost.

What does conversion to Xeriscape consist of? Smart planning and understanding that this is a long-term savings game with an upfront cost. Perhaps you're considering a landscape renovation or inherited your current landscape and continuously maintain it- make your habitat work for you!

Soil preparation starts with a soil test to see what chemical components your soil is lacking as well as amend the soil with compost and other nutrients will help ensure that your plants will be happy and healthy. Aerate the soil so that the roots can tap into the water stored in the soil in addition to installing a thick layer of mulch to retain the moisture in the soil. It also means planning to create different plant zones and keeping those that have similar requirements together for efficient irrigation. Utilizing drought-tolerant trees and shrubs in addition to native plants helps to create an aesthetically pleasing, well-rounded landscape environment. Xeriscape doesn't mean that you can't have grass, a consideration in the type of grass that will do best in this region as well as reducing the size of your grassy area should be considered.