Xeriscape principles can be applied to a new or existing yard to create a low-maintenance and water-efficient 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.
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
- **Orchid Tree**<br>Boaehnia lunariodes
- **Desert Willow**<br>Chilopsis linearis
- **Little Leaf Ash**<br>Fraxinus greggii

### SHRUBS
- **Seminole Crape Myrtle**<br>Lagerstroemia indica ‘Seminole’
- **Lynn’s Legacy Texas Sage**<br>Leucophyllum langmanii ‘Lynn’s Legacy’
- **Autumn Sage**<br>Salvia greggii
- **Black Knight Butterfly Bush**<br>Buddleja davidii ‘Black Knight’
- **Ballera Indian Hawthorn**<br>Rhaplolepis indica ‘Ballera’
- **Red Yucca**<br>Hesperaloe parviflora

### GRASSES
- **Bear Grass**<br>Nolina microcarpa

### SUCCULENTS
- **Huachuca Agave**<br>Agave parrvyl var. huachucensis
- **Queen Victoria Agave**<br>Agave victoriae-reginae
- **Pincushion Cacti**<br>Mammillaria spp.

### BOULDERS
- **Dry Stream Bed**

**GROUNDCOVERS AND VINES**

**GROUNDCOVERS**
- **Desert Marigold**
- **Verbena**
- **Blackfoot Daisy**
- **Trailing Indigo Bush**
- **Trailing Yellow Lantana**
- **Silver Sage**
- **Tombstone Rose**

**VINES**
- **Desert Willow**
- **Verbena**
- **Blackfoot Daisy**
- **Trailing Indigo Bush**
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### WATER CORRECTLY
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!