

Plants don't waste Water, People do!

Garden Talk

XXXrated Gardening

XXXrated plants are selected for their ability to flourish in the area with limited amounts of water. XXXrated plants beautify your yard and are suited to our climate. They increase gardening success because you are using the right plants in the right place. Conserve our precious resource by using less water.

If you follow the 7 steps of Xeriscape and use XXXrated plants, you can have a beautiful landscape in spite of a possible drought. Remember, all plants need moisture to get established and are considered established after two growing seasons.

1. Kill the weeds. Weeds are water thieves and will rob your plants of water and nutrients.

2. Improve the Soil - Most soils in the Tri-City area are granite or heavy clay and need to have organic matter added to improve the soil and give the plants a healthy start. Adding 1"-2" of compost to the existing soil and tuning into the soil one shovels depth will give great results. This is time to amend the soil. It will never mean more or be easier. Don't skimp.

3. Create practical turf areas - Turf has its place in a low-water landscape when it provides a functional benefit, and several varieties use less water than ground covers or trees. Substitute ground covers in areas where turf is hard to grow. This would be steep slopes, shade areas or very narrow spaces. We need to give turf a chance in many landscapes. Turf can survive heat stress and releases enough oxygen for a family of four . . . per day. They're very traffic tolerant and remove dust and dirt from the air. The proper turf uses less water than most xeriscape plants. It's cooler with grass by as much as 30 degrees compared to decks, patios, dirt areas or walkways. Don't over water and only water in the morning.

4. Water efficiently with appropriate methods - Plan the irrigation system at the same time you plan your plants. Water turf areas separately and group the plantings by water requirements. Use drip system irrigation for trees, shrubs & perennials. Avoid oscillating sprinklers, they lose too much water to



evaporation. Water only between 2:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., and never when it's raining or with high winds. Adjust your sprinkler system regularly to account for changes in climate.

5. Select plants appropriate for climate and group according to water needs - Group plants according to their water requirements. Use the XXXrated gardening guide to help you choose plants wisely. Place low water using plants together and in areas that are hardest to get to with irrigation or hand watering. Place high water using plants in a low laying area where natural drainage will help with their maintenance.

6. Mulch to reduce evaporation - Mulches will help you in many regards in the garden: reduce evaporation, cool the root zone, reduce weed growth, slow erosion and provide a finished look. Apply directly to the soil surface or over landscape fabric. Organic materials like wood chips, shredded bark or compost work best at keeping plants healthy, but rock, gravel or granite can also be used. Recommended layers of mulch would be 2-3" thick and never piled up around the trunk of a tree or shrub. Use Soil Activator by Fertlome. This organic humic acid promote a deeper root structure. The more roots a plant has the less water it will need.

Check the XXXrated plants on the next page.



X Rated Shrubs

Thrives in slightly dry conditions

Mountain Maple
Acer glabrum

Chokeberry
Aronia spp.

Smoke Tree
Cotinus coggygria

Bearberry Cotoneaster
Cotoneaster dammeri

Rock Cotoneaster
Cotoneaster horizont

Daphne
Daphne spp.

Burning Bush
Euonymus alatus

Euonymus
Euonymus spp.

Forsythia
Forsythia spp.

Golden Privet
Ligustrum x vicaryi

Honeysuckle
Lonicera spp.

Mockorange
Philadelphus

Pines
Pinus spp.

Potentilla
Potentilla fruticosa

Flowering Almond
Prunus glandulosa

Roses
Rosa Hybrid

American Elderberry
Sambucus canadensis

Elderberry
Sambucus pubens

Spirea
Siraea spp.

Viburnum
Viburnum spp.

XX Rated Shrubs

Thrives in dry conditions

Amur maple
Acer ginnala

Serviceberry
Amelchier spp.

Manzanita
Arctostaphylos

Kinnikinnick
Arctostaphylos

Sagebrush
Artemisia spp.

Barberry
Berberis spp.

Butterfly Bush
Buddleja spp.

Blue Mist Spirea
Caryopteris

Quince
Chaenomeles spp.

Fernbush
Chamaebatiaria

Cotoneaster
Cotoneaster spp.

Broom
Cytisus spp.

Royal Woadwaxen
Genista tinctoria

Rock Spirea
Holodiscus dumosus

Juniper
Juniperus spp.

Beauty Bush
Kolkwitzia amabilis

Common Privet
Ligustrum vulgare

Red Honeysuckle
Lonicera tartarica

Oregon Grape Holly
Mahonia aifoliumqu

Grape Holly
Mahonia repens

Mockorange
hiladelphus spp.

Ninebark
Physocarpus spp.

Tanyosho Pine
Pinus densiflora

Mugo Pine
Pinus mugo

Russian Almond
Prunus tenella

Firethorn
Pyracantha spp.

Buckthorn
Rhamnus spp.

Currant
Ribes spp.

Shrub Roses
Rosa spp.

Boulder Raspberry
Rubus deliciosus

Chenault Coralberry
Symphoricarpos

Lilac
Syringa spp.

Viburnum
Viburnum spp.

Adam's Needle
Yucca filamentosa

XXX Rated Shrubs

Thrives in very dry conditions

Leadplant
Amorpha spp.

Sagebrush
Artemisia filifolia

Saltbush
Atriplex spp.

Peashrub
Caragana spp.

Mountain Mahogany
Cercocarpus spp.

Rabbitbrush
Chrysothamnus spp.

Cliff Rose
Cowania mexicana

Mormon Tea
Ephedra spp.

Apache Plume
Fallugia paradoxa

New Mexico Privet
Forestiera

Flowering Yucca
Hesperaloe parviflora

Pinus edulis
Pinon Pine

Gambel's Oak
Quercus gambelii

Shrub

Liveoak
Quercus turbinella

Sumac
Rhus spp.

Squaw Currant
Ribes cereum

Gooseberry
Ribes hirtellum

Buffaloberry
Shepherdia argentea

Snowberry
Symphoricarpos albus

Yucca
Yucca spp.

X Rated Trees

Thrives in slightly dry conditions

Western Catalpa
Catalpa speciosa

Eastern Redbud
Cercis canadensis

Ash
Fraxinus spp.

Crabapple
Malus spp.

Fruiting Apple
Malus domestica

White Pine
Pinus strobus

Apricot
Prunus armeniaca

Peach
Prunus persica

Cherry/Chokecherry
Prunus spp.

Plum
Prunus spp.

Rose Tree of China
Prunus triloba

Ornamental Pear
Pyrus calleryana

Oak
Quercus spp.

Japanese Pagoda Tree
Sophora japonica

Mountain Ash
Sorbus spp.

XX Rated Trees

Thrives in dry conditions

Amur Maple
Acer ginnala

Tatarian Maple
Acer tataricum

Serviceberry
Amelanchier spp.

Western Hackberry
Celtis occidentalis

Hawthorn
Crataegus spp.

Golden Honeylocust
Gleditsia triacanthos

Juniper
Juniperus spp.

Golden Rain Tree
Koelreuteria

Pines
Pinus spp.

Bur Oak
Quercus macrocarpa

XXX Rated Trees:

Thrives in very dry conditions

Bigtooth Maple
Acer grandidentatum

Russian Hawthorn
Crataegus ambigua

One Seed Juniper
Juniperus monosperm

Mountain Juniper
Juniperus scopulorum

Bristlecone Pine
Pinus aristata

Gambel's Oak
Quercus gambelii

X Rated Grasses:

Thrives in slightly dry conditions

Feather Reed Grass
Calamagrostis

Tufted Hair Grass
Deschampsia

Blue Fescue
Festuca glauca

Blue Oat Grass
Helictotrichon

Maiden Grass
Miscanthus sinensis

Fountain Grass
Pennisetum

Fountain Grass
Pennisetum orientale

Ribbon Grass
Phalaris arundinacea

XX Rated Grasses

Thrives in dry conditions

Switch Grass
Panicum virgatum

Hardy Plume Grass
Saccharum ravennae

Indian Grass
Sorghastrum nutans

Feather/Needle Grass
Stipa spp.

XXX Rated Grasses

Thrives in very dry conditions

Big Bluestem
Andropogon gerardii

Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium

X Rated Vines

Thrives in slightly dry conditions

Chocolate vine
Akebia quinata

Clematis spp.
Clematis

Honeysuckle
Lonicera spp.

Boston Ivy
Parthenocissus

Grape cultivars
Vitis cultivars

Wisteria
Wisteria spp.

XX Rated Vines

Trumpet Vine
Campsis radicans

Clematis
Clematis spp.

Hop vine
Humulus lupulus

Virginia Creeper
Parthenocissus

XXX Rated Vines

Thrives in very dry conditions

Silver lace vine
Fallopia aubertii