Xeriscape is not a landscape style or garden design. Xeriscape is a concept of water conservation that may be applied to landscapes of any style.
Let’s talk water supply

Studies have shown that as much as 70 percent of water from a municipal water system can be attributed to residential use.

30 to 50% of total water is used for landscape irrigation.

Conservation is the easiest and cheapest way to make our water use sustainable.

Texans use between 8 and 9 billion gallons of water per day. The aquifers are recharged at a rate of 4 to 5 billion gallons per day.
**Principles of Xeriscape**

- Planning and Design
- Efficient irrigation systems, properly designed and maintained
- Use of mulch
- Soil preparation
- Appropriate turf
- Water-efficient plant material
- Appropriate maintenance

**Planning**

- Maximize water conservation with good planning and design.
- Divide landscapes into water use zones – oasis, transition and low water use – “hydrozoning”
- Design rainwater harvesting into plan – rain gardens, rain barrel use.

**Irrigation**

- Irrigation is necessary in xeric landscapes
- Automatic, manual or hoses
- Separate water zones
- Water efficiently with drip, bubblers, micro-spray or soakers hoses.
- Turf can be watered with drip irrigation.
- Apply water where it is needed.

**Mulch**

- Provide soil cover to reduce evaporation and erosion and moderate soil temperature
- Helps limit weed growth
- Bark, gravel, permeable weed barriers
- Use as a landscape element

**Soil Preparation**

- Important in xeriscaping and gardening in general
- Add organic soil amendments — compost
- Improves water retention, root development and water infiltration

**Appropriate use of Turf**

- Major water user
- Requires frequent care
- Helps reduce erosion
- Provides cooling and reduces glare from sun
- Can substitute groundcovers in low activity areas — easier to irrigate
- Consider drought tolerant turf like buffalograss
**Turf Water Needs**

- A 4500 square ft. St. Augustine lawn receiving one inch of water per cycle uses approximately 2812 gallons of water.
- A 4500 square ft. Bermuda lawn receiving one-half inch of water per cycle uses approximately 1406 gallons of water.

**Low Water Use Plants**

- Use native or adaptive plants in all hydrozones
- Many varieties of color, texture and size readily available in nurseries

**Some Favorite Natives and Adaptive Plants**

- American Beautyberry
- Blackeyed Susan
- Black Fountain Grass
- Boston Ivy
- Mexican Buckeyes
- Cossack
- Black Oleander
- Gregg's Dalea
- Daylily
- Dwarf Maiden Grass
- Dwarf Wax Myrtle
- Elaeagnus
- Gayfeather (Liatris spp.)
- Gregg’s Salvia
- Dwarf Hameln Fountain Grass
- Hardy Hibiscus
- Bearded Iris
- Dutch Iris
- Grasses
- Lantana
- Mexican Mint
- Mexican Oregano
- Mexican Marigold
- Pink Skullcap
- Purple Coneflower
- Purple Heart
- Rock Rose
- Rosemary
- Sages
- Mexican Bush Sage
- Mealy Cup Sage
- Sedum
- Standard Fountain Grass
- Thistle
- Turkscap
- Variegates

**Maintenance**

- Can be lower maintenance with use of mulches — less weeds
- Design will determine the required maintenance
- Maintenance of irrigation will critical
- More turf, more maintenance
- Native/adaptive plants and reduced insect problems

**A Sustainable Landscape —**

- Preserves limited and costly natural resources
- Reduces waste generation
- Helps prevent air, water and soil pollution

**Sustainable Practices**

- Build Healthy Soils
- Use Mulch
- Irrigate Efficiently
- Limit Fertilization
- Turfgrass Recycling
- Prune Selectively
- Re-use on-site Organic Materials
- Recycle Organic Materials Off-Site
- Practice Pollution Prevention
- Retrofit Inefficient Landscapes