Waterwise Gardening
and Landscaping
Using Natural Resources Wisely
Waterwise Gardening and Landscaping

Utah House and Waterwise Landscaping
Why Waterwise?

- Beauty *and* conservation.
- Promote diversity.
- Provide habitat for wildlife.
What types of gardens or landscapes apply?

- Forma or Informal
- Cottage and Traditional
- Beds & Borders
- Naturalistic & Rock
- Prairies or Mountain
- All types!
We Are Going to Discuss:

- Natural VS Controlled
- Seven principles of Xeriscape
- Plant lists, pictures and resources
- Final questions and answers
Natural Vs. Controlled

- Ask yourself the following questions:
  - How much input do I want?
  - What are my real expectations?
  - What resources are available?

- Low Maintenance – Low Control-<$
- High Maintenance – Total Control->$
The Quest For Beauty

Zero–scape is not Xeriscape
Typical Bluegrass Landscape

Plentiful natural precipitation

Bressingham, Norfolk
from Perry’s Perennial Pages
Acres of Turf (or a Golf Course in Your Yard)

Maximum irrigation needs
Natures Landscapes
Sheer Natural Beauty
Natures Landscapes
High Mountains – Moderate Water
Natures Landscapes
Vegas Desert – Rare Precipitation
Natures Landscapes
Cascade Springs – Natural Water Source
Natures Landscapes
Gardeners Replica – Natural Precipitation
What Is Xeriscape?

- Water-Wise Landscaping, Low-water Landscaping and Xeriscape all represent the same basic ideas; Each identify principles of gardening & landscaping that conserve water and use resources wisely.
Principles of Xeriscape

- Proper planning
- Limiting turf
- Efficient irrigation
- Soil improvements
- Soil protection
- Xeric plants
- Maintenance
1) Planning and Design

- Identify existing conditions
- Determine and list needs and expectations
- Group plants together by their needs
  (Moisture, soil, sun, hardiness, wind, etc.)
- Consider micro climates
- Plan and use water zones
- USU Booklet – Waterwise Landscaping
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- Plan and use water zones
Consider Maintenance
2) Limit Turf Areas

- Turf grass is highest user of water.
- Reduce amount to actual needs.
- Consider alternative types of turf (see chart).
- Consider alternatives i.e.: natural prairie.
- Massive turf areas are best suited for parks, golf courses and other public areas.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>H2o</th>
<th>COLOR</th>
<th>WEAR</th>
<th>REGROWTH</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue Grass</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Dark/Yellow</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High/Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial Rye</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Med Green</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Slow/Seed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tall Fescues</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Med Green</td>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwarf Fescue</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Med Green</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Poor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turtle Turf</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Dark/Med</td>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Poor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buffalo Grass</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Light Green</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High/Excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Gramma</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Blue/Green</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Slow/Seed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Prairie</td>
<td>Ntrl.</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Med/Poor</td>
<td>Slow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stressed Blue Grass
Deep Watered Tall Fescue
3) Irrigate Efficiently

- Eliminate waste
- Monitor rainfall
- Avoid midday
- Water deep less often
- Use water zoning
  - Zone 1 – very low
  - Zone 2 – low
  - Zone 3 – moderate
  - Zone 4 – high
4) Improve the Soil

- Amend to meet each plant groups needs.

- Organic matter is the Answer (clay or sand).

- Use what is available.

- Health soil equals healthy plants!
Hard Clay & Clay Loam
5) Protect the Soil

- Mulch to conserve water and reduce weeds.
  - Mulch conserves moisture by dissipating rainfall or irrigation and holding moisture in the soil.
  - Mulch denies sun to seeds and seedling and prevents most weed growth.

- Mimic nature by using rocks and gravel, forest mulch, compost or thick plant growth. Straw, hay, grass clippings or compost works well in vegetable gardens.
Mulch Example – Wood Chips
Mulch Example - Straw
Mulch Example - Gravel
Mulch Example - Plants
6) Use Waterwise Plants

- Plants for all purposes
- Endless possibilities
- Limit water lovers
- Use more native
  - Already adapted
  - Hardy & resilient
  - Alternate beauty
Xeriscape Plants (bulbs & tubers)
Xeriscape Plants (prairie)
Xeriscape Plants (prairie)
Xeriscape Plants (desert flowers)
Xeriscape Plants (desert flowers)
Xeriscape Plants (mountain)
Xeriscape Plants (Penstemons)
Xeriscape Plants (shrubs)
Xeriscape Plants (shrubs)
Xeriscape Plants (trees)
7) **Proper Maintenance**

- Tune sprinkler systems
- Mow grass higher
- Control weeds
- Limit fertilizer
- Water deep less often
- Prune as needed using proper methods.
- Don’t become a slave!
Cactus Trees?
Have Fun Creating

- Enhance the beauty of your home and community.
- Plan interest for all four seasons.
- Try new plants and ideas.
- Invite wildlife with diversity.
- Mix colors, textures and shapes for interest.
Grasses
Color
Textures and Shapes
Hard Places
Enjoy the Seasons
Summary

- Adjust design to personal needs
- Xeriscape vs. Zero-scape
- Monitor water use
- Start Small
- Use native plants
- Practice smart maintenance
- Last but not least - Have Fun!
Xeriscape / Water Wise Landscaping Resources

- USU: extension offices, garden publications, horticulture forums, continuing education, etc.
- Utah Native Plant Society
- Jordan Valley Water Conservation Gardens
Xeriscape / Water Wise
Landscaping Resources

- BOOKS: xeriscape, low water, high desert, native plants, etc.
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INTERNET: for plants, information, forums, searches, gardening help, etc. Look for information from the Intermountain area, not from the desert Southwest or from Florida
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Landscaping Resources

Thank You
Come Back
For More
Classes In The Future