

**Welcome to  
Basic Yard Makeover  
Virtual Workshop!**




**March 9, 2021**

We appreciate you joining the virtual class. We will begin our class on time at 6:00pm.

**Just Some Reminders:**

- All attendees are automatically muted and will not be able to unmute or share video once joined in the class.
- Please place all comments or questions in the Q&A box. We will have personnel reviewing and answering questions as they are received. We will present the questions to the instructor at points within the presentation and at the end.
- Class handout material(s) are in the reminder emails that were sent leading up to this class. The attachment links to the handout documents are toward the bottom of the email.
- If you are having technical difficulties, feel free to email us at: [conserve@chandleraz.gov](mailto:conserve@chandleraz.gov) or call 480-207-8294

\*The number and the connection in the Q&A chat box will both be needed.

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**\*Sound Check\***

**You should be able to hear audio. If you do not hear any audio please type into the Q&A box.**

**-Thank you!**

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**Basic Yard Makeovers**



*Cathy Rymer  
Certified Arborist, Master Gardener University of Arizona  
former Water Conservation Coordinator, City of Chandler*




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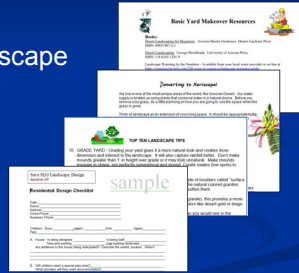
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## Class Materials

- Resources list
- Converting to Xeriscape
- Top 10 tips
- Design checklist
- Brochures .....




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## Class Materials

- Brochures




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## Top Reasons to Convert to Xeriscape

- Save Time
- Save Water
- Save Money
- Save The Air
- Set An Example
- No More Mowing

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### Did You Know?

- We average 8 inches of rain each year and a lawn requires over 60 inches each a year.
- Lawns are often overwatered 2-3 times more than is needed.
- A Xeriscape uses 1/2 to 2/3 less water than grass.

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### Compare Water Use

Water needed each year for 3,000 square feet



- 105,000 gallons for turf
- 44,000 gallons for desert landscape

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### Where We Live

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# Check the Numbers

110 = days with temperatures over 100°

2020 = 144 days!

**THAT'S HOT!!**

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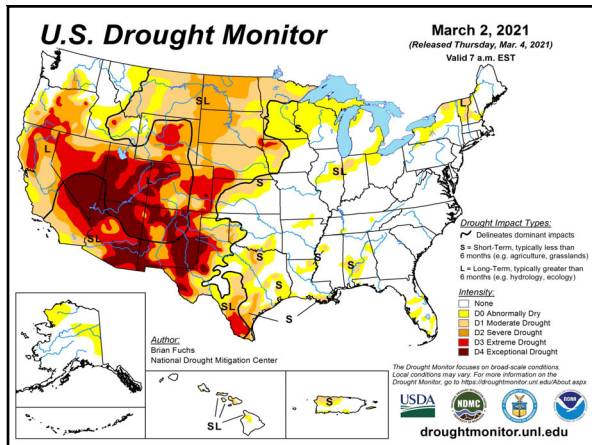
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## What Does Xeriscape Mean?

- Derived from *xeros*, Greek for "dry"
- plus *scape*, a scene.

USDA NDMC NOAA

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## Xeros – It's a Dry World



- Xeric environments = deserts
- Xerophytes = desert plants
- Xerox = a dry copy
- Xeriscapes = dry landscapes

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## Zero Scape



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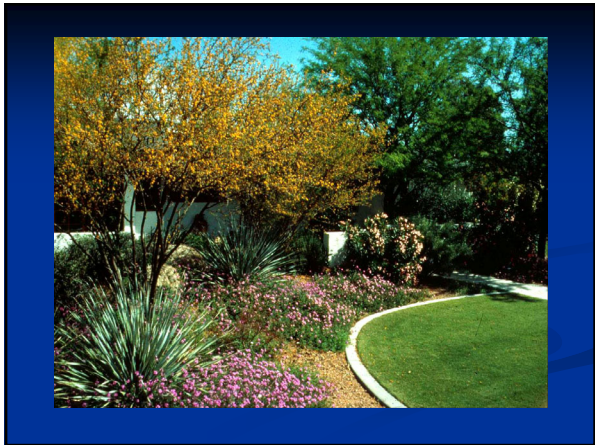
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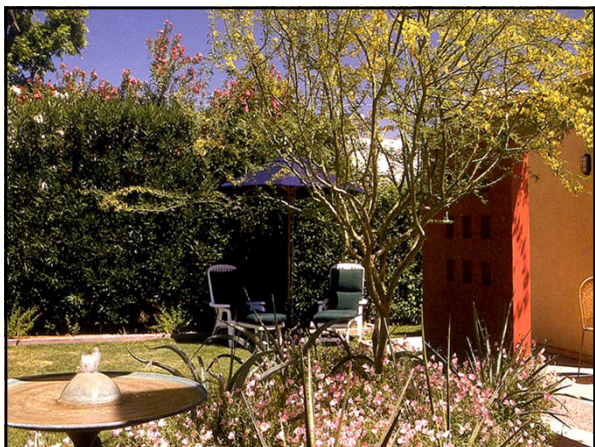
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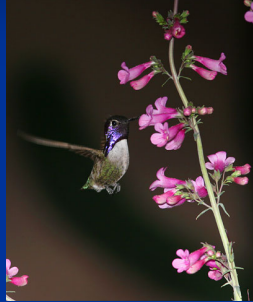
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## Xeriscape Principles



- Planning & design
- Appropriate turf areas
- Efficient irrigation
- Grading and soil evaluation
- Use of mulches
- Low water use plants
- Appropriate maintenance

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*Think of landscape as an extension of your living space.*

*It should be appropriate to the architecture of your home, your lifestyle, your region and climate, and your budget.*

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## Don't Forget Color



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### Hot - Warm Colors

- **Red** is intense & aggressive. Highly visible. Raises metabolism & blood pressure.
- **Orange** is enthusiastic. Creates sensation of heat. Invigorating.
- **Yellow** creates warming effect. Attracts attention.

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### Cool - Calm Colors

- **Blue** creates calming effect. Denotes tranquility, stability and calmness.
- **Purple** conveys mystery and magic – even romance and nobility.
- **Greens** are restful peaceful colors that create a cooling effect.

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**Don't Forget Color**  
**"Color Your World"**  
Class Video  
City of Chandler  
Water Conservation Website  
<https://www.chandleraz.gov/water>

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**Steps for Converting**

- Have a plan
- Kill & remove the turf
- Grade yard
- Rework the irrigation
- Plant it and mulch it
- Maintenance
- Enjoy it

A photograph of a white skid steer loader with orange wheels, working on a dirt yard. The loader is positioned in the center of the frame, facing slightly to the left. It appears to be in the process of grading or moving dirt. In the background, there is a white wall and some trees.

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# 1. Have a Plan



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## Landscape Design Process

### Getting Started:

1. Site Analysis (Property Assessment)
2. Needs and wants list
3. Bubble diagram
4. Design outdoor rooms on paper
5. *Select the plants you want to use*
6. Install the irrigation system
7. Install the plants

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## Make a Wish List

- Play area
- Entertainment area
- Attract wildlife
- Quiet place to relax
- Color and shade
- Vegetable or fruit garden
- Pool or spa



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## Outdoor Trends

- American Society of Landscape Architects Survey

<p><u>Outdoor Design Elements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gardens/landscaped areas</li> <li>Outdoor living spaces</li> <li>Recreation amenities (pool, spa, etc.)</li> <li>Sustainable design practices</li> <li>Turf lawns</li> </ul>		<p><u>Outdoor Living Features</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grills / Firepits</li> <li>Seating / Dining</li> <li>Lighting</li> <li>Decorative water elements</li> <li>Benches/ledges/steps/boulders</li> <li>Weatherized outdoor furniture</li> <li>Counter space</li> <li>Utility storage</li> <li>Stereo systems</li> <li>Refrigerators</li> <li>Sinks</li> </ul>
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## Top 10 Landscape Tips

1. Grade yard
2. Use boulders
3. Select granite
4. Group plants
5. Consider views
6. Select theme
7. Conservation
8. Hardscape
9. Flowers
10. Use native plants

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## Landscape Themes

- Mexican
- Mediterranean
- Rustic
- Formal or tailored
- Natural or wild
- Tropical
- Specialized: play, bird & butterfly, color, meditation, religious, etc.

\*from *Plants for Dry Climates*, Duffield & Jones

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## Design Rules

- ◆ #1 Keep it simple
- ◆ #2 Decide on a main theme or goal
- ◆ #3 Use 1 or 2 focal points
- ◆ #4 Have a short plant material list



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## Techniques to consider as you develop your plan

- Work *with* Mother Nature instead of against her
- Recreate a "natural look"
- Informal landscapes are usually easier and less costly to maintain
- Work with odd numbers of plants (3, 5, 7, etc.)
- Frame views

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### Techniques to consider as you develop your plan

- Try tucking, massing and layering your plants
- Leave open space so eyes can "rest"
- Some plants are powerful - one may be all that's needed (bold cacti, for example)
- Consider 'cascades', 'spills' and 'drifting' as you plan.

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### Site Analysis (Property Assessment)

- ◆ Your House and Property
- ◆ Your Lifestyle
- ◆ Your Surroundings
- ◆ Sun and Weather

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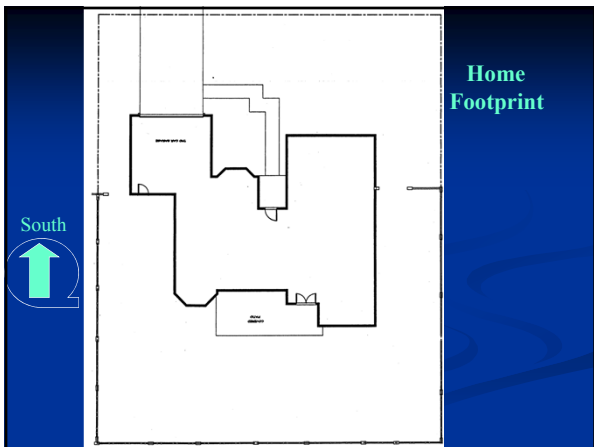
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- Sun Angles
- Wind direction
- People Movement
- Slope/Water Movement
- Views
- Plant Placement

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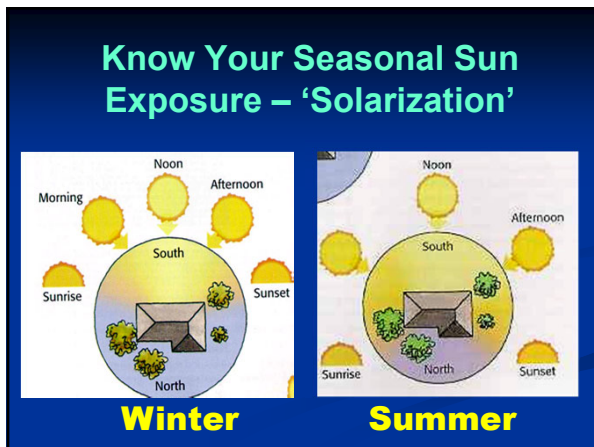
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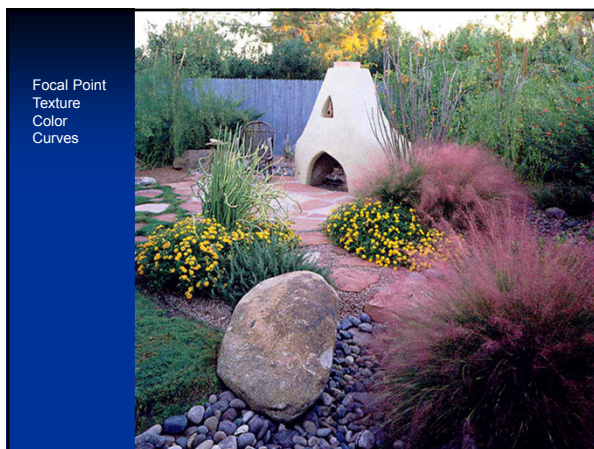
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## Special Spaces

- Children
- Pets
- Entertainment
- Exercise
- Recreation
- Relaxation

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## Envision Child's Play



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## Site Selection

- Easy access
- High visibility
- Secure and away from hazards such as pools
- Available space

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### Provide Shade



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### Don't Forget the Native Plants

- Desert trees
- Durable native plants
- Colorful wildflowers



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### Sensory Landscape



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### Pet Friendly



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### Entertainment



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### Entertainment



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## Entertainment



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## Entertainment



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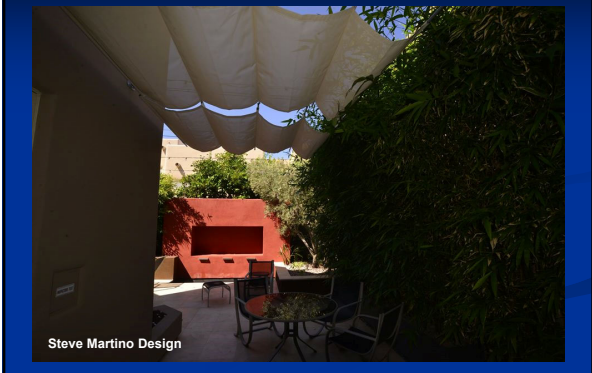
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## Outdoor Rooms



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### Outdoor Rooms



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### Recreation



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### Exercise



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Relaxation



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### Relaxation



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### Focal Point



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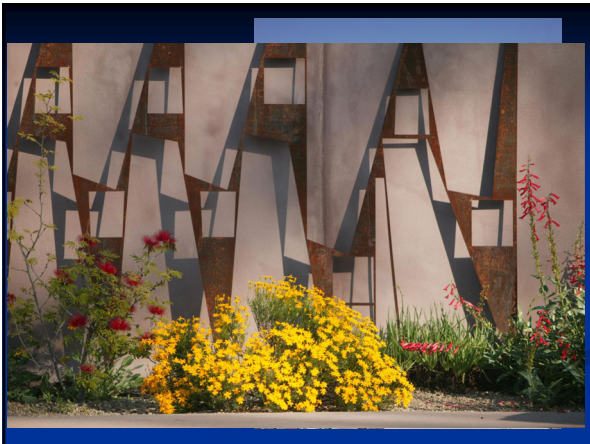
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## Your Key to a Successful Conversion

- Thoroughly kill all grass and weeds in the area you want to convert!



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## Methods of Grass Removal



- Mechanical



- Neglect?



- Chemical



- Solarization

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## Methods of Grass Removal



### Solarization

- Clear plastic
- 4-6 weeks in summer



### Strip & Sheet Mulch

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## Methods of Grass Removal

### Systemic Herbicides

- Move to all areas of plant (leaf, stem, roots, rhizomes, stolons)
- Kills underground roots of perennial weeds
- The greater the leaf area, the more herbicide absorbed
- Often act slowly



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**Kill-Zall**  
**RoundUp**  
**Glyphosate is the active ingredient**  
**Kleenup**  
**UltraKill** **HDX**

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### Time to Apply

- When grass is green and healthy
- Summer, when grass is actively growing
- Morning, when herbicide is absorbed more effectively by the grass
- Calm day, avoid 'wind drift' of the chemical



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## I Hope You Don't Have Nutsedge



- Manage
- Sedgehammer

Add to the spray tank with the glyphosate

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## Increase Herbicide Effectiveness

- Water the grass to green up
- Do not mow - spray 3-5 days after mowing
- Spray in the morning
- Do not spray right before rain or irrigation
- Add nitrogen to the spray tank
  - 1 tbsp water soluble fertilizer/gallon
- ALWAYS follow label instructions

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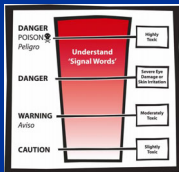
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## Hazard = Toxicity x Exposure

- Toxicity – signal words
  - Caution – slightly
  - Warning - moderately
  - Danger - severe
- Always choose the least toxic option
- Routes of exposure
  - Oral
    - Wash hands before and after mixing, loading, applying and cleaning
  - Ocular – eyeglasses or goggles
  - Inhalation - respirator
  - Dermal
    - Change clothes after application
    - Wash clothes separately



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## Organic Herbicides

OMRI Certified

Product	Signal Word	Active Ingredient(s)
Weed Pharm*	DANGER	20% Acetic acid (vinegar)
WeedZap*	CAUTION	45% Clove oil, 45% Cinnamon oil
Avenger AG*	CAUTION	55% Limonene
AXXE*	WARNING	40% Ammonium nonanoate
Burnout*	DANGER	24% Citric acid, 8% Clove oil
Suppress*	WARNING	32% Capric acid, 47% Caprylic acid
Matratec AG	CAUTION	50% Clove oil

\*Organic herbicide according to label

- OMRI = Organic Materials Review Institute
- USDA National Organic Program Approved Materials List
- Chemicals are mostly postemergence, contact herbicides

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## Now What?



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## Before You Dig, Call Blue Stake!

Dial 811



■ 602-263-1100

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### Three Choices After Grass has Died

- Scalp the grass close to the ground  
*or*
- Rototill the area, rake out dead grass  
*or*
- Remove 3-4" of dead grass with sod cutter or bobcat

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**3. Grade the Yard**

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### Tips for Grading



- Create gentle mounds, not too large
- Create swales
- Consider water harvesting
- Use boulders or rock to help define

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## Rainwater Harvesting



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## Rainwater Harvesting



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# 4. Rework the Irrigation



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## Retrofit or Install New Irrigation



*Abandon*



*New*



*Retrofit*

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## Change PVC to Poly Tubing



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## Irrigation Tips



- Good design
- Quality products



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## Separate Valves



### ZONING

- Water different plant types separately if possible.

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## 5. Plant It and Mulch It



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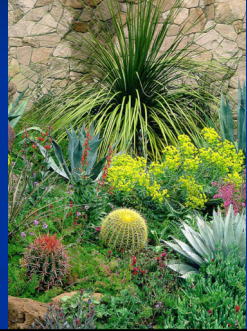
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## Tips for Plant Selection

- Location, location, location
- Color, form & function
- Creative plant combinations
- Regionalism
- Environmental tolerance
- Wildlife habitat



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## Focus on Native Plants



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## Creosote *Larrea tridentata*



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## 6. Collect Your Rebate!

<i>Amount of Turf Removed</i>	<i>Rebate Amount</i>
1,000 - 2,000 square feet	\$200
2,001 - 3,000 square feet	\$400
3,001 - 4,000 square feet	\$600
4,001 - 5,000 square feet	\$800
.....Up to a maximum of 15,000 s.f.	Maximum of \$3,000

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## 7. Enjoy Your Landscape



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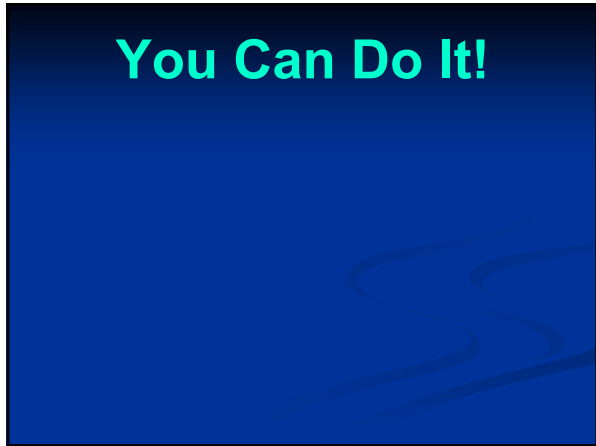
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**Need Help?**

- Landscape design
- Brush removal
- Grading/trenching
- Irrigation installation



**Tips for Choosing Professional Services**  
**Pages 19-21**

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## Resources for Xeriscape Information



XERISCAPE

Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert  
A Guide to Growing More Than 200 Low-Water-Use Plants

Now On-Line!

See pages 63-65 for:

- Contacts
- Web sites
- Demo gardens
- Books and more!

[www.landscapewithstyle.com](http://www.landscapewithstyle.com)

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## Resource for Plant Information



XERISCAPE

Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert  
A Guide to Growing More Than 200 Low-Water-Use Plants

Now On-Line!

Over 200 color photographs

- Mature size
- Flowering times
- Frost hardiness
- Shade tolerance

Candler • Gilbert • Glendale • Goodyear • Mesa • Phoenix • Scottsdale • Tempe  
Working Together as the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

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## Resource for Irrigation Information



XERISCAPE

Landscape Watering by the Numbers  
A Guide for the Arizona Desert

Step by step guide to setting up an irrigation system.

Also on line at: [www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com)

There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you.

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## Residential Landscape Revitalization Workbook

<https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/Asset7384.aspx>

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## Residential Landscape Revitalization Workbook

SYMBOL	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME	HEIGHT X SPREAD	EXPOSURE	QUANTITY
	<i>Delonix regia</i> Palms	40' x 20'	Full sun / part shade	1
	<i>Phoenix dactyloides</i> Date Palms	40' x 20'	Reflected sun / full sun	2
	<i>Lemniscata bitorquata</i> 'Green Owl' Sage	6' x 6'	Full sun	3
	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Prostratus' Hoop Pine Rosemary	7' x 6'	Full sun	10
	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> Sage Eucalyptus	6' x 5'	Full sun / part shade	1
	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> Purple Eucalyptus	7' x 5'	Full sun / part shade	4
	<i>Nerium oleander</i> 'Pinks' Pink Oleander	7' x 7'	Reflected sun / full sun / part shade	4
	<i>Cordyline alliodora</i> Red Bird of Paradise	8' x 6'	Reflected sun / full sun	1
	<i>Agave parviflora</i> Palm Bearded Agave	3' x 3'	Full sun / part shade	1
	<i>Propagula perfoliata</i> Red Iron Tree	3' x 3'	Full sun / part shade	5
	<i>Dryopteris eremophila</i> Green Street Fern	4' x 4'	Full sun / part shade	3
	<i>Nerium oleander</i> Yellow Bell	6' x 6'	Full sun / part shade	1
	<i>Lantana camara</i> 'Gold Medal' Gold Medal Lantana	2' x 2'	Full sun	15
	<i>Hibiscus grandifolius</i> Garden's Hibiscus	1' x 2'	Full sun / part shade	13
	<i>Cordyline discolor</i> Bermuda grass	1.5' x varies	Full sun	412 sq
	<i>Agave attenuata</i> Century Agave	6' x 5'	Full sun / part shade	1
	<i>Cordyline discolor</i> (various sizes)			3

<https://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/Asset7384.aspx>

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## WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING IN Chandler

[www.chandleraz.gov/water](http://www.chandleraz.gov/water)

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## References

<https://www.chandleraz.gov/water>



<https://www.queencreek.org/waterguide>

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## Thank you for joining us!

**Additional Resources**

<p><b>City of Chandler</b></p> <p>Water Conservation <a href="http://chandleraz.gov/water">chandleraz.gov/water</a> Email: <a href="mailto:conserve@chandleraz.gov">conserve@chandleraz.gov</a> Ph# 480-782-3580</p>	<p><b>Town of Queen Creek</b></p> <p>Water Conservation <a href="http://QueenCreek.org/ReducetheUse">QueenCreek.org/ReducetheUse</a> e Email: <a href="mailto:ConserveTheQC@queencreek.org">ConserveTheQC@queencreek.org</a> rg Ph# 480-358-3455</p>
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## Questions?

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