

# Xeriscaping and the Utah Desert

## What is Xeriscaping?

*Xeriscape is a word created by combining the Greek word "xeros" which means dry and "scape" from the word "landscape".*

### ***Xeriscaping is water-wise landscaping.***

This practice of landscaping focuses on using natural forces such as rainfall and careful plant selection to create beautiful sites that requires minimal maintenance. Usually the plants chosen are native plants or those that can survive in the local habitat with little intervention. With patience and planning, this method can be a successful and worthwhile venture that is beneficial and compatible with the Utah habitat.



### ***Why is water-wise gardening so important in Utah?***

Most simply stated because Utah is a desert. As our population increases the demand for drinking and irrigation water increases. Water can not be created. If water conservation is not practiced our future

drinking water supply will be depleted, our recreation areas jeopardized, and our natural habitats compromised.

### ***Other Reasons to Xeriscape***

Saving water isn't the only reason to Xeriscape. Other reasons include reducing storm water run off preventing erosion and decreasing the effects of soil expansion which causes pavement to crack.



### **Reducing Storm water run off**

If your property has even a mild to moderate slope it invites runoff. If you do not have the necessary plants to hold it in place the runoff increases. Using mulches and other plants that require little water will decrease the occurrence of run off by allowing the water time to absorb into the soil. This also decreases erosion of the soil.

### **Decreasing Soil Expansion**

Soil expansion happens when soil expands when it gets wet. This is also known as soil swelling. When the soil swells it can cause cracking in pavement and foundations. Xeriscaping can help prevent this because it requires little water thus preventing the soil from expanding and cracking the pavement.



You don't have to take drastic measures like tearing out all of your existing plants in order to begin xeriscaping. Start small.



- Consider removing a few feet of grass along your driveway and sidewalk. Plant these areas with ground cover, small shrubs or perennials.
- Or maybe replace a part of your sloping lawn with a rock garden, rock wall or some low-spreading evergreens.

### ***Xeriscaping Helps Utah***

Remember with xeriscaping you will get the most out of every gallon of water you apply to the landscape and that means you are helping to save one of our most precious resources, Water!



For more information including lists of Utah native plants and where to purchase them visit-

[www.unps.org](http://www.unps.org)  
[www.slowtheflow.com](http://www.slowtheflow.com)  
[www.xeriscape.org](http://www.xeriscape.org)  
[www.hort.usu.edu](http://www.hort.usu.edu)



### ***How to get Started***

For additional information on Storm Water Protection refer to the following brochures:

- Erosion Control
- Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application
- Household and Vehicle Maintenance
- Impervious Surfaces
- Landscaping, Gardening, and Yard Maintenance
- Paint and Household Hazardous Waste
- Pet Waste Water Quality
- Utah and its Water, Why Conserve
- Water Conservation Inside the Home
- Water Conservation Outside the Home
- Xeriscaping



For more information about the Weber County Storm water quality management program and additional pamphlets, contact:

Weber County Storm Water Management  
[www.co.weber.ut.us/stormwater](http://www.co.weber.ut.us/stormwater)

Harrisville City  
[www.cityofharrisville.com](http://www.cityofharrisville.com)

## Spill Response

Dial 911

-or-

Environmental Health Division of the  
Weber/Morgan Health Department  
(801)591-7168

State Of Utah  
Environmental Response  
(801) 536-4123

Utah Division of Water Quality  
(801) 538-6146



**1-800-458-0145**

Used Oil Recyclers  
(for DIYers in Weber County)

Weber County Transfer Station  
Auto Zone Stores  
Checker Auto Parts Stores  
Wal-Mart Tire & Lube  
Jiffy Lube

The preceding list is not all encompassing nor does it constitute an endorsement by Weber County of any particular company

## Xeriscaping



**Getting the most out of every gallon of water!**

