

# Landscaping Water Reduction Tips

Did you know that the average American family uses 50% of its total water on landscaping? Maintaining a beautiful landscape can cause your water bill to skyrocket during the summer months.

You can reduce your landscape water consumption by **establishing a watering schedule**, **choosing native plants**, and **landscaping with decorative gravel or mulch**. You don't have to sacrifice a beautiful landscape to use less water; here's how you can beautify and simplify your landscape while keeping it lush and colorful:

## ESTABLISH A WATERING SCHEDULE FOR DIFFERENT SOIL TYPES

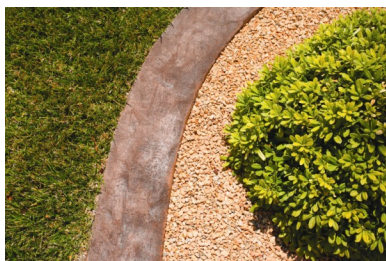


Different types of soil require different types of watering. Sandy soil requires deeper watering which should be done for longer periods of time but less frequently. Clay soil is the opposite, requiring short intervals of water more frequently. Water consumption can also be reduced by leaving grass at a longer length. Grass should be 2.5" in length to reduce water evaporation and promote deeper root growth, resulting in less water needed.

## CHOOSE PLANTS NATIVE TO YOUR AREA AND GROUP BY WATER CONSUMPTION

Plants that are native to your area have a higher survival rate, use less water than other popular plants, are just as attractive and require less maintenance. Plants should also be grouped together based on the amount of water they need. Place high water consuming plants close together and lower water consuming plants close together; adjust sprinklers accordingly.

## LANDSCAPE WITH DECORATIVE GRAVEL, BARK, AND MULCH TO REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION AND DECREASE MAINTENANCE



Simply put, xeriscaping is a waterwise landscaping strategy that reduces the water hogging elements in your landscape and replaces them with water efficient landscape elements to save water. Your grass is the number one water consumer in your landscape, so why not reduce the amount of grass in your yard? You don't have to eliminate grass altogether, but you can significantly lower your water consumption by removing some grass and other traditional elements in your

landscape and designing new xeriscaped areas.

Creating a xeriscaped landscape to reduce water and decrease maintenance is as simple as tearing up the existing grass and replacing the areas with landscaped beds designed with mulch, gravel, landscape boulders and native plants. Installing a quality landscape fabric/weed barrier underneath decorative gravel, bark, or mulch beds significantly reduces the growth of weeds and corresponding maintenance.



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