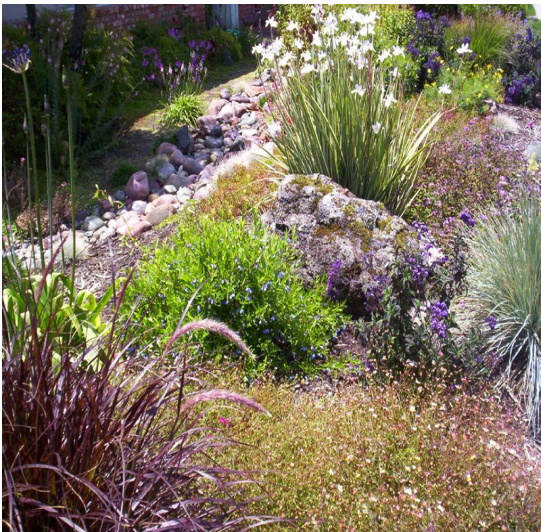


We invite you to employ the basic principles of xeriscape gardening, which are detailed in this brochure, and to visit one of our demonstration gardens located at the following locations:

- CT Water Shoreline office - 93 West Main Street, Clinton
- CT Water Northern office - 25 North Road, East Windsor
- Naugatuck Town Property - Millville Avenue, Naugatuck (across from Senior Center)

These gardens were designed and planted by our employees with you, our valued customer, in mind. Working together we can conserve and protect our vital water resources.



Plant Recommendations

The following are some of the plants that do well in Connecticut during the dry, summer months without getting very thirsty:

Perennials -

- * Joe Pye Weed
- * Butterfly Weed
- * Moss Phlox



Butterfly Weed

Ornamental Grass -

- * Switchgrass



Switchgrass

Ground Cover -

- * Creeping Juniper
- * Bearberry

Shrubs -

- * Inkberry
- * Blueberry, lowbush



Lowbush Blueberry

Herbs -

- * Sage
- * Thyme
- * Lavender

The following websites provide a list of more native plants:

www.ct-botanical-society.org

www.plantnative.org

The Connecticut Water Company

93 West Main Street,
Clinton, CT 06413

1-800-286-5700 (Customer Service)
1-860-669-8630 (All Other Business)
<http://www.ctwater.com/>

Connecticut Water

XERISCAPE GARDENS

Water Conservation Through Creative Landscaping

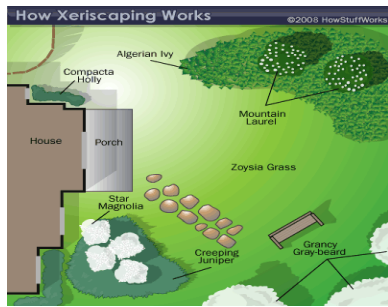
Xeriscape gardens rely on drought tolerant and native plants and special gardening techniques for a more water-efficient landscape. While water conservation is a major objective of any xeriscape landscape, properly designed xeriscape gardens also generally require less maintenance; minimize the need for fertilizers and pesticides; decrease mowing needs; provide important wildlife habitat; and improve property values.

Water is an essential resource, susceptible to waste, contamination and inefficient use. Connecticut Water believes strongly that a commitment to water's protection, preservation and efficiency of use is required to ensure its sustainability and availability for communities today and for future generations.

Seven Principles Of Xeriscape Gardening

1. Planning Your Landscape

Effective Xeriscaping requires good planning. Important items to consider when choosing the “right” drought tolerant plants include: exposure to sun and wind; proximity to buildings and other plants and trees; and slope and grade changes. The key to xeriscaping is putting the “right” plant in the “right” location. A natural, informal design makes maintenance easy; it also makes a statement about your concern for our natural resources.



2. Improving Your Soil

The ideal soil in a Xeriscape garden does two things simultaneously: it drains quickly and stores water at the same time. Organic matter (compost, peat or aged manure) is the ideal soil additive. By adding 1”-3” of organic matter to sandy soil will enrich the soil and help absorb and retain moisture. In clay soil, it will help aerate the root zone of the soil. If you are not sure of the type of soil you have, bring some to your garden center and be sure to mention that you’re xeriscaping.

3. Irrigate Effectively and Efficiently

Water conservation is the goal, so avoid over-watering. Soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems offer the easiest and most efficient watering because they deliver water directly to the base of the plant. Grouping plants according to their need for water is an important principle of Xeriscape. Irrigate before the sun comes up whenever possible. Whatever irrigation system you use, check it regularly.

4. Using Turf Effectively

Reduce the size of grass areas as much as possible. Grass is the largest consumer of water in a landscape. If you use grass, use varieties that need less water and feeding like fescues and ryegrasses. Consider grass alternatives like ground cover, mulches and less thirsty types of shrubs.

5. Select Drought Tolerant Plants



For best results, select plants that are native. If you choose the right plants, you will reduce the amount of water needed to maintain your garden. Look at the list of recommended plants in this brochure, the listed websites and consult your garden center about other varieties that do well in Connecticut. Except in extremely dry periods, most of these plants only need significant watering when first established and during active growth periods.

6. Using Mulch

Cover the soil’s surface around plants with mulch. Mulch helps to retain soil moisture and temperature, inhibits weed growth, and minimizes erosion. To be effective, mulch needs to be several inches thick. Effective organic mulch comes in many varieties- from grass clippings and wood chips to the more aesthetically pleasing and costly types, such as bark chips and cocoa shells.

7. Maintaining Your Landscape

Xeriscape gardens are easy to maintain if designed according to the basics discussed in this brochure. They save you time—and water. Xeriscape maintenance depends on the efficient use of water. That means only using the right amount of fertilizer at the right intervals, effective pest control, proper pruning and weeding and, of course, conservation-minded irrigation techniques. The free flowing design of xeriscaping makes maintenance simple—as long as you don’t let your garden go.

