



# Xeriscaping “Dry” Landscaping

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Designing an outdoor garden area using plants that are indigenous to the area in which they are planted is the key in xeriscaping. The idea is to use plants that conserve water and promote healthy ecosystems in the surrounding area. Using native plants that are drought resistant can also help reduce plant cuttings and landscape maintenance. Xeriscaping can also reduce the need for harsh chemical herbicides and fertilizers, minimizing the impact on the land.

### Key to Designing a Xeriscape

Landscapes should be planned according to the local rainfall patterns.

Select local flora that is also drought tolerant.

Implement a rainwater harvesting system and a good irrigation system.

Instead of a lawn, use an alternative groundcover such as herbaceous perennials, ornamental grasses, and deciduous or coniferous shrubs.

Mulches can also help enhance the look of an outdoor space as a substitute for a living ground cover.

Group plants with similar water needs together.

Work with the soil in the area. Composting can improve the soil, which will help plants absorb more water and lead to healthier plants.

Loosening the soil can also significantly improve the water absorption of a plants root system.

The Milligan House is a local garden that demonstrates xeriscaping. It is located on the Southeast corner of Aspen and Sitgreaves. For more information about this garden visit: [Xeriscape Demonstration Gardens](#).

### Related Links

[The Arboretum at Flagstaff](#)

[Xeriscape Colorado](#)

[Flagstaff Xeriscape Council](#)

[Flagstaff Fabulous Plants – plant list](#)

[U of A Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program](#)

<http://www.toolbase.org/Technology-Inventory/Sitework/xeriscaping>



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