



KOOTENAY GALLERY
XERISCAPE
GARDEN

LANDSCAPE WATER CONSERVATION... XERISCAPE GARDENING

In an attempt to reduce excessive water consumption, the Kootenay Gallery has created a Xeriscape garden with a view to demonstrating the benefits of using native plants as an aesthetically pleasing and low-maintenance landscaping choice.

In Castlegar, up to 30 percent of the water supply is used for landscape and garden watering during the summer months. Much of this water is used to maintain traditionally high water-demanding landscapes, or it is simply applied inefficiently. Traditional landscapes may incorporate one or two principles of water conservation, but they do not utilize the entire concept to reduce landscape water use effectively.

THE SEVEN BASIC PRINCIPLES OF XERISCAPE LANDSCAPING

- Planning and design
- Soil analysis
- Practical turf areas
- Appropriate Plant Selection
- Efficient irrigation
- Use of mulches
- Appropriate maintenance

By incorporating these seven principles, you can help preserve our most precious natural resource - water.



START WITH A PLAN

Sketch your yard with locations of existing structures, trees, shrubs and grass areas. Then consider the landscape budget, appearance, function, maintenance and water requirements.

SOIL ANALYSIS AND PREPARATION

To increase plant health and conserve water, add organic matter to the soil of shrub and flower bed areas. This increases the soil's ability to absorb and store water in a form available to the plant.

PLANT SELECTION

Select trees, shrubs and groundcovers based on their adaptability to the area's soil and climate. The interior of BC is blessed with an abundance of beautiful native plants and trees which are naturally adapted to the region.

EFFICIENT IRRIGATION

Consider an effective and inexpensive drip line watering system. Drip irrigation offers increased watering efficiency and plant performance when compared to sprinkler irrigation. Drip irrigation slowly applies water to soil. The water flows under low pressure through emitters, bubblers or spray heads placed at each plant. Water applied by drip irrigation has little chance of waste through evaporation or runoff.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

An added benefit of Xeriscape landscapes is less maintenance. A well-designed landscape can decrease maintenance by as much as 50 percent through reduced mowing; once-a-year mulching; elimination of weak; unadapted plants; and more efficient watering systems.

MULCHING CONSERVES WATER

Use a mulch whenever possible. A good mulch conserves water by significantly reducing moisture evaporation from the soil. Mulch also reduces weed populations, prevents soil compaction and keeps soil temperatures moderate.

To help you with native plant choices, please ask Gallery staff for a copy of the list of native plants used in the garden.



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