

## **Landscape the Water-Wise Way!**

What is Water Wise Landscaping? It's planning your yard so that you get the most beauty and functionality for minimal water use. This is also known as Xeriscaping, a word trademarked by the National Xeriscape Council. Why is this important in our area? **Our summer water usage spikes 20% over that used in the winter.** That extra water is going to outdoor activities, primarily landscaping. Minimizing your irrigation will make a difference in our water supply!

### **Xeriscaping Principles:**

1. Plan Your Landscape - This is the first step to any successful landscape
2. Prepare Soil Adequately - Good soil is the basis for healthy plants & optimum water use
3. Select Plants Wisely - Pick plants based on their natural ability to do well in our area
4. Mulch Your Gardens - Use mulch to conserve soil moisture
5. Use Optimum Cultural Practices - Proper lawn care conserves moisture in the soil
6. Use Turfgrass Appropriately - Limit grass to where there is a functional benefit
7. Use the Best Watering Method - Soils vary in their ability to hold water

A good place to start learning about Water-Wise landscaping is with this brochure, written by the [Virginia Cooperative Extension](#):