



# About Xeriscape Gardening

Seasoned Xeriscape gardeners tend to adhere to a methodology proven to yield the best results. The proven methodology of gardening with native and drought-adaptive plants can be summarized as the **Seven Principles of Xeriscape**.

One

**Make a plan!** A plan provides visual guidance and will ensure that esthetics and water-conserving techniques are coordinated and implemented. This garden was designed as in a floral pattern and so each quadrant has similar water requirements, thereby increasing irrigation efficiency.

Two

**Add soil amendments!** This will improve soil structure, fertility and the soil's ability to hold water for plant use. Adding one to two inches of compost to our typically sandy clay soils and tilling the amendments to a depth of six inches can improve growing conditions immensely.

Three

**Irrigate properly!** Plan to water turf areas separately from trees and shrub and flower beds. Choose the irrigation method that waters the type of plant in each area most efficiently. Use rotors for large turf areas, drip emitters for trees, and soaker pipe for annual beds. Do not rely on automatic timers – manually determine the amount of water necessary for the season and weather conditions. Know when to water – watch plants for signs of stress, observe soil moisture and watch the weather in order to anticipate when to water. Water only when plants need it.

Change watering patterns based on the season, temperatures, aspect and natural precipitation. Pay attention to different microclimates. Plants located on west and south facing exposures need more water than eastern and northern aspects. Sandy soils require more water than clay soils. Young transplants require more frequent watering than mature plants. Mature plants need less frequent watering but greater volumes per watering. Focus water on plant roots – water should be directed at plant roots and not beyond the root zone. Water should be applied so runoff does not occur. Watering should only moisten the root zone. Roots for trees and shrubs are usually between six and 18 inches deep and spread to two to three times the width of the canopy.

Four

**Group similar plants together!** Locate plants with similar light and water requirements together, and place them in an area suitable to these requirements. Plants in the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden are irrigated with drip emitters or soaker pipe. The adjacent turf grasses are irrigated with pop-up spray heads.

Five

**Use Mulches!** Mulch helps keep plant roots cool, prevents soil from crusting, minimizes evaporation and erosion and reduces weed growth.

Six

**Reduce turf grass areas!** Native or adapted shrubs and perennials, mulches, patios and decks require far less water than turf grasses of any type. Use turf only where it is needed for functional purposes.

Seven

**There is no such thing as a maintenance free garden with live plants.** Preserve the beauty of your garden with regular maintenance. Weeding, proper irrigation, pruning, fertilizing and pest control will keep your landscape beautiful and water thrifty.

## Additional Xeriscape Gardening Information:

[www.highlandsranch.org](http://www.highlandsranch.org)  
[www.hrcaonline.org](http://www.hrcaonline.org)  
[www.arapahoeacres.com](http://www.arapahoeacres.com)  
[www.wilmorenurseries.com](http://www.wilmorenurseries.com)

[www.xeriscape.org](http://www.xeriscape.org)  
[www.water.denver.co.gov](http://www.water.denver.co.gov)  
[www.ext.colostate.edu](http://www.ext.colostate.edu)  
[www.greenbuilder.com/sourcebook/](http://www.greenbuilder.com/sourcebook/)



# About the Garden

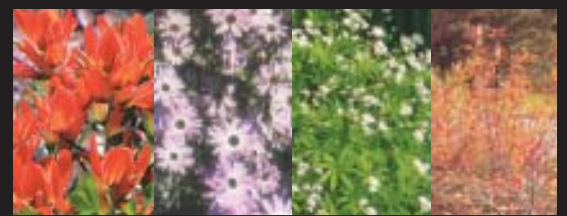
Our low natural precipitation rate, low relative humidity, dry winds and high ultraviolet radiation make Highlands Ranch ideally suited to plants that are native or adapted to our arid climate. Such hardy plants are said to be Xeriscape plants.

While nearly every garden plant needs irrigation to supplement our natural precipitation rate, non-Xeriscape plants need much more supplemental water to flourish.

The purpose of the Highlands Ranch Xeriscape Garden is to demonstrate the use of Xeriscape plants requiring lower amounts of water in a formal garden setting. This garden has been carefully designed and constructed to conserve water without compromising aesthetic standards.

It is not possible to explain or illustrate every nuance of Xeriscape Gardening in this brochure. More helpful Xeriscape gardening information, materials, and expertise are available to you in references elsewhere in this brochure and from the sponsors of this project.

We hope you enjoy this project and that it will inspire you to make Xeriscape the foundation of your landscape.



# Highlands Ranch Xeriscape Garden Demonstration



## Brought to you by:

Centennial Water & Sanitation District  
303-791-0430

Highlands Ranch Community Association  
303-791-2500

Highlands Ranch Metro Districts  
303-791-0430

Arapahoe Acres Nursery, Inc. Landscape Contractor  
303-791-1660

The Gardens at Highlands Ranch  
303-791-0338

Wilmore Nurseries Garden Center  
303-795-5339

Shalkey & Team, Inc. - Landscape Architects  
303-820-3340

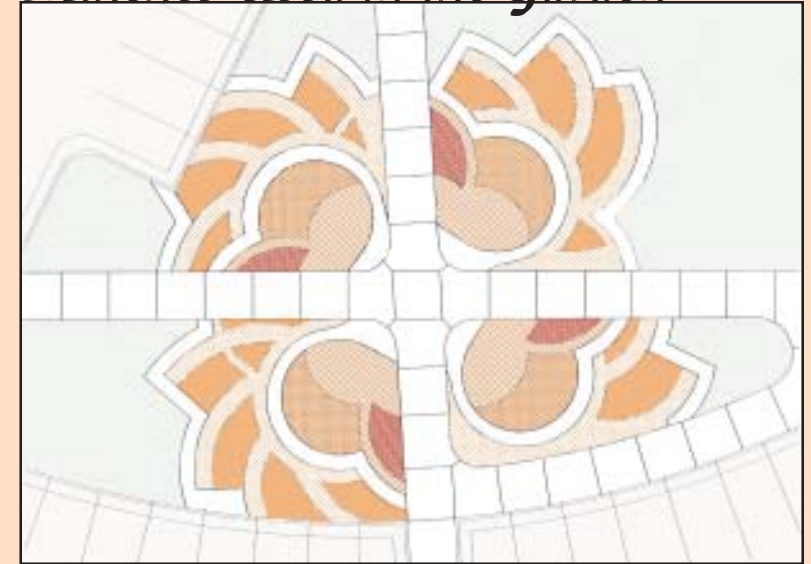
# Map of the Garden



## Annual Mixes as of June 2003

<b>Annual Mix "A"</b>	California Poppy	White Verbena
	Salvia	
<b>Annual Mix "B"</b>	Wave Petunia	Tall Marigold
	Salvia	Dusty Miller
<b>Annual Mix "C"</b>	Bachelor Button	Moss Rose
	Zinnia	
<b>Annual Mix "D"</b>	Dianthus	Dwarf Zinnia
	Osteospermum	

# Mulches Used in the Garden



	Cedar Mulch		Small Bark Mulch
	Rhyolite Rock Mulch		Cocoa Mulch
	Colorado Rose Rock Mulch		Pioneer Breeze Crusher Fines

## Key to Plants Used in the Garden

<b>Garden Section "A" - 'XX' Rated</b>	<b>Garden Section "B" - 'XXX' Rated</b>	<b>Garden Section "C" - 'XXX' Rated</b>	<b>Garden Section "D" - 'X' Rated</b>
A1 Peking Cotoneaster	B1 Cheyenne Privet	C1 Autumn Olive	D1 Regent Serviceberry
A2 Dart's Gold Ninebark	B2 Apache Plume	C2 Mountain Mahogany	D2 Korean Spice Viburnum
A3 Miniglobe Honeysuckle	B3 Fernbush	C3 Lead Plant	D3 Slow Mound Mugo Pine
A4 Moonlight Broom	B4 Bluemist Spirea	C4 Tall Green Rabbitbrush	D4 Dwarf European Cranberry
A5 Coral Beauty Cotoneaster	B5 Tall Wyoming Sage	C5 Adam's Needle Yucca	D5 Goldmound Spirea
A6 Sierra Spreader Juniper	B6 Japanese Blood Grass	C6 Red Corralberry	D6 Little Bluestem
A7 Northern Sea Oats	B7 Switch Grass	C7 Overdam Feather Reed Grass	D7 Yaku Jima Dwarf Maiden Grass
A8 Indian Sweet Grass	B8 Mount Atlas Daisy	C8 Blue Avena Grass	D8 Orange Carpet 'Hummingbird Trumpet'
A9 Karl Forster Feather Reed Grass	B9 Pussytoes	C9 Mount Atlas Daisy	D9 Speedwell
A10 Big Ears Lamb's Ear	B10 Mat Penstemon	C10 Dwarf Pussytoes	D10 Lamb's Ear
A11 Creeping Veronica	B11 Cranesbill Hardy Geranium	C11 Creeping Penstemon	
A12 Hens & Chicks		C12 Evening Silver Primrose	
A13 White Creeping Thyme			
<b>Perennial Mix "A"</b>	<b>Perennial Mix "B"</b>	<b>Perennial Mix "C"</b>	<b>Perennial Mix "D"</b>
Prairie Clover	Tall Yellow Yarrow	Poppy Mallow/ Winecups	Tickseed
Jupiter's Beard (red Valerian)	Sunset Hyssop	Baby Cole Blanket Flower	Delphinium
Sulfer Flower	Snow Daisy	Native Flax	Evening Primrose
	Sunny Border Blue Speedwell	Prairie Jewel Penstemon	Gayfeather
		Mexican Hat	Maltese Cross

# About The X-Rated Xeriscape Plant Classification System

The X-Rated Classification System for Xeriscape Plants is a useful guide for grouping together Xeriscape plants with similar watering requirements:

- X-Rated plants prefer slightly dry conditions (about 1 inch of water per week)
- XX-Rated plants prefer dry conditions (about 1/2 inch of water per week)
- XXX-Rated plants prefer very dry conditions (about 1/2 inch of water per 2 weeks)

The watering requirements shown above include both natural precipitation and irrigation. For example, if it rains 1 inch on your X-Rated garden, do not irrigate again for one week, or if it rains 1/2 inch, irrigate an additional 1/2 inch. The water requirements shown are for plants that have already become established, meaning well-rooted and vigorous.

Until your Xeriscape plants are established (about one year for all plants except annuals and turf grasses - about two to four weeks for annuals and turf grasses), check the moisture of the soil in the plant's root zones - just like you check your house plants before watering. If the soil in the root zones is moist to the touch (stick your finger in the dirt), but not dry and not soggy, the plant is adequately watered.

After establishment, use the X-Rated Classifications shown above as a guideline, but check the soil moisture from time to time to see if adjustments need to be made. Watering requirements during the winter are similar for all plants except annuals. Check the root zones monthly for moisture and if the ground is not frozen, water to the amounts shown above on a monthly (instead of weekly) basis. The Highlands Ranch Xeriscape Garden was designed according to the X-Rated guidelines and, after establishment, the plants will be watered accordingly.