

Pinery Pipeline

September/October 2008

Pinery Water & Wastewater District – 303.841.2797

www.pinerywater.com

Enjoy the “Beauty” of Saving Water

What is Xeriscape?

This question confuses many people who expect Xeriscape to be a specific look or specific group of plants. Xeriscape is actually a combination of seven common sense gardening principles that save water while creating a lush and colorful landscape.



● Maintain The Landscape

No garden is completely maintenance-free. Like more traditional landscape, Xeriscape requires regular maintenance to look its best. This includes pruning shrubs/ trees, deadheading perennials, aerating, mulching, mowing/fertilizing lawns, and controlling pests.

● Efficient Irrigation

Once you've converted to Xeriscape, it's important to water it correctly. While new plants are getting their roots well-established, they will use nearly the same amount of water as the grass you replaced. But once established, you can severely cut back on the amount of water.

● Mulch

Mulch is an essential component of gardening in a semi-arid climate like ours, for several reasons. Mulching minimizes evaporation. It cools plant root zones, which reduces the amount of water plants lose through evapotranspiration. It reduces weed growth, and it helps control erosion. Mulch also adds a finished look to the garden.



● Improve the Soil

Soil is the foundation of every landscape. The better the soil, the more successful a Xeriscape will be. Colorado soil tends to be either primarily clay or sand. Clay soil has a high moisture retention capacity, but it is slow to absorb water and slow to release it. When water is applied too quickly to clay soil, the soil can't absorb it and most of it runs off. Clay soil also tends to be heavily compacted, making it difficult for plants to establish the deep root systems necessary to survive a drought.

● Select & Group Plants

There is a misconception among some people that the only plants allowed in a Xeriscape are cactus and other desert perennials. Nothing could be farther from the truth! There are a large number of plants that do well in our semi-arid climate with minimal supplemental irrigation. The trick to waterwise gardening is to put the right plants in the right place.

● Create Practical Turf Areas

Contrary to what you may have heard, converting your yard to Xeriscape does NOT mean you have to get rid of all the grass. It does mean you need to think about where it makes sense to have grass, rather than just putting turf everywhere. In Colorado's semi-arid climate, many grasses need immense supplemental irrigation to stay green and lush. That's why it's important to limit grass to “useful” areas in the yard that require a grassy surface.



Birds at the District Office



Beautiful Xeriscape Plants Bloom at the Old Schoolhouse

THANKS to “Colorado Water Wise” for this outstanding information on Xeriscaping! Like to know more? Check out their website at www.coloradowaterwise.org

● Plan and Design

Like a house, a well-designed landscape should start with a plan, or rather, a series of plans. Start with a base plan which shows the major elements of the current landscape, including the footprint of the house, driveway, patios, walkways and all existing trees, shrubs and garden beds. The base plan should also show directions and should include the location of spigots, downspouts and external electrical outlets.

Changes at Bingham Lake....



Zebra mussels are small barnacle-like mollusks with dark and light colored stripes. They smother aquatic organisms, such as crayfish and native clams and out compete for food and aquatic habitat. Zebra mussels damage equipment by attaching to boat motors or hard surfaces and clog water treatment facilities.

The District's Board of Directors has adopted a resolution prohibiting all activities which might pose a threat of causing zebra and/or quagga mussel infestation in Bingham Lake.

Effective September 2, 2008 boating of all types, use of float tubes, and wading in the lake (with or without waders) is prohibited. Fishing is still permitted from the shore and from the dock. Zebra and Quagga mussels have been detected in Pueblo Reservoir and Lake Granby. The Board will continue to monitor the spread of the Mussels in the State and will modify these changes in the management of the Lake events unfold. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Additional information is available at:
<http://parks.state.co.us/Zebra+Mussels.htm>
www.100thmeridian.org

Replacing Appliances with High Efficiency Models

High Efficiency (HE) seems to be the wave of the future when it comes to saving water, energy and time. Just how do these new models compare? The following information was taken from www.consumerresearch.com:

Washing Machine: HE Front Loaders have a better washing performance, use less water and the high spin speed reduces drying time. The larger capacity machines allows for fewer loads. In addition, HE detergents will save the consumer money. In estimating gpl ("gallons per load"), top loading washers use 40-55 gpl, HE Washers use 20-23 gpl.



Toilet: Think about a pre-1980 toilet which used 4-6 gpf ("gallons per flush") compared to today's HE toilets using just 1.6 gpf. If an average person flushes 140,000 time over a lifetime, HE toilets pay for themselves in only a few years! Today's HE toilet models also claim to be high performers when it comes to clearing and cleaning the bowl.

Shower Head: For maximum water efficiency, select a shower head with a flow rate of less than 2.5gpm. Prior to 1992, shower heads had a flow rate of 5.5 gpm. If it's been 15+ years since you replaced a shower head, this would be a smart investment in water conservation.



Aaron
Murphy



Morgan
Mason

The District's Summer Staff....

Morgan Mason and Aaron Murphy definitely did not sleep away their summer. On the contrary, they were reporting to work each day at 7:00am assisting the Water Operators, mowing and weeding, painting hydrants, working water leaks, locating system valves, and assisting with meter reading. Perhaps these young men didn't aspire to work at a water district when they were growing up, but they've both come to realize that working at a public utility can be extremely rewarding and the experience will stay with them as they grow in their chosen careers.

Morgan has worked at the District for 6 summers. When not working he enjoys doing volunteer work in the Parker community. He is also an avid traveler – including trips to Alaska, Germany, Amsterdam, Spain, England, and many states in between his world travels.

The summer of 2008 was Aaron's first summer with the District. He has recently completed his EMT certification and anticipates hiring on full-time with a local fire department in the near future. He is also a member of the Civil Air Patrol. On a personal note, Aaron is the oldest of eight children in his family and enjoys playing the violin in his spare time.

The District would like to thank Aaron and Morgan for their dedication and hard work this summer – they truly made a difference in providing outstanding service to the District!

