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Xeriscaping For An Extraordinary Garden

By Jeanette Joy Fisher

Is it time to think about how to turn your garden from ordinary to extraordinary?

One way to do that is to think in terms of xeriscaping. The term means to use waterwise plants, which is especially useful in dry climates. Xeric species make gardening easier because they're drought resistant, and friendlier to the environment, because they use less water to provide lushness in both flowers and foliage. Most xeric plants are also perennials, so they will continue to flourish for years without having to be replanted every spring.

There are many types of gardens that can also create spectacular effects. For instance, formal gardens are meant to convey a sense of power over the environment through the use of carefully trimmed hedges and symmetrical layouts. This type of garden was especially popular during Elizabethan times. They require considerably more work, but the overall effort can be very dramatic.

A woodland garden can also be beautiful, using a combination of plants that can tolerate shade and partial sunlight. The idea is to mimic the randomness of the forest floor, and augment that with the use of stone and wood to create a warm and inviting feeling. Water elements are often used, as well as stone bridges and walkways. The idea is to work with the space and make it feel as if everything belongs there within a naturalistic setting. If your space is truly limited, you can still create spectacular effects by creating a container garden. These are particularly effective in an urban setting, especially in a courtyard or on a patio. By using varying sizes and shapes of containers and mixing various textures and colors together, you can create stunning effects without having to have a large amount of space.

Another garden that can create a wonderfully organic effect is the wildflower garden. As the name suggests, the aim is to recreate the randomness you'd find in an open meadow. The overall effect can be quite breathtaking, and sowing the seeds can be as simple as just sprinkling handfuls of wildflower seeds around your garden area. A pleasant bonus to this type of garden is that it will attract lots of birds and butterflies, as well, which will provide even more enjoyment for nature lovers.

You don't have to spend huge amounts of money to create extraordinary garden spaces. It just requires thought and imagination.

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What Is Xeriscaping?

By Jackson Porter

Xeriscaping is a low maintenance form of gardening with drought resistant plants. It is low maintenance as you don't have to go out everyday and tend to your plants and water them. It is also better for environmental conservation as your garden will not require inordinate amounts of water. This is a great solution if you don't have the time to maintain a lush garden or if you live in a region which does not receive much rainfall. Leave it to the beautiful state of Colorado to have created and really innovated Xeriscaping.

Xeros is Greek for dry and this landscape method was introduced during a period of Colorado drought. The key to maintaining a great looking, low water landscape is to use plants native to the area that require little water. Colorado offers many free Xeriscaping classes as part of its water conservation efforts. Other areas that are subject to drought have followed in Colorado's footsteps and many now offer classes as well. Attend any local classes you can in order to get advice on the specific plants to use in your area. In case you were worried your options will not be limited to the cactus family.

Although Xeriscaping may sound similar to zero scaping, one does not need to resort to a yard of nothing but rocks to implement it. You can still have a pretty yard when utilizing Xeriscaping methods.

To start Xeriscaping your yard you should first look to plants that are low maintenance, require a low amount of water, and ideally are native to your area. Plant placement is also important. You want to group plants that require about the same amount of water together. You also want to plant in the areas of your yards that are protected from extreme sun or wind.

Xeriscaping is not about depriving yourself and your yard. It is just the opposite, instead of looking to the greener grass on the other side of the fence (or state line) you can use this method to adapt and work with the best natural plants and flowers for your region and just think of all the time you will save as well.

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