Xeriscaping Plant Choices

There is a variety of grasses, trees, annuals and perennials suitable for creating a xeriscape. When selecting, look for plants that are both drought tolerant and naturally suited to your region. In Eastern North Dakota some examples include:

Grasses
- Crested Wheatgrass (Agropyron cristatum)
- Blue Grama (Bouteloua gracilis)
- Buffalograss (Buchloe dactyloides)

Trees
- Acer ginnala (Amur maple)
- Prunus virginiana (Chokecherry)
- Syringa vulgaris (Common lilac)

Ornamentals
- Achillea species (Yarrow)
- Liatris spicata (Blazing Star)
- Gaillardia aristata (Blanket Flower)
- Coreopsis tinctoria (Coreopsis)

Helpful Tips

To the casual observer, a prairie grass and wildflower landscape may be perceived as an unkempt lawn. However, steps can be taken to promote the introduction of a prairie landscape into the traditional neighborhood. Talk to your neighbors before installing the landscape and discuss the beauty, uniqueness, reduced maintenance and water needs, and other community benefits. For more information visit:

Cass County Soil Conservation District
Stewardship for Today and Tomorrow
www.cassscd.org

Residents of developing communities have many choices available when it comes to landscaping. Choosing a landscape that requires a smaller amount of watering saves time and money, reduces dependence on local water, and improves aesthetic spaces.

Why Xeriscape?

Xeriscape (pronounced zeer-i-scape) is commonly confused as “zero-scaping” but is much different. It is the wise use of water through water-efficient landscaping and the utilization of plants better adapted to local climatic and soil conditions. Xeriscapes are a conscious attempt to develop plantings which are compatible with the environment.

Some of the benefits of xeriscapes include:
- Lower landscape water usage and costs
- Decreased landscape maintenance needs
- Reduced dependence on chemical pesticides and fertilizers
- Enhanced urban wildlife habitat
- Reduced storm water runoff
- Year-round aesthetic interest

Principles of Xeriscaping

1. Take visual inventory of your space and plan your landscape or garden design accordingly.
2. Improve existing soil conditions as necessary.
3. Locate lawns very strategically and consider all alternatives to lawns.
4. Use mulches to moderate soil temperatures and to conserve moisture.
5. Utilize plants that are native or well adapted to the geographical/climatic conditions.
7. Provide regular landscape maintenance.

Programs and services are delivered in a non-discriminatory basis.