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Creating & Maintaining A Water-wise & Organic ColoradoScaped Yard: A Homeowner's Guide



ColoradoScaping (aka 'Xeriscaping') is a landscaping approach ideal for Colorado's arid climate, focusing on low-water-use plants like Colorado native perennials. By adopting organic practices, you can create a beautiful, sustainable garden that conserves water, minimizes chemical use, and supports local ecosystems. Let's learn more about it...

Selecting Colorado Native Perennials

Native perennials are adapted to Colorado's climate and soils, making them perfect for xeriscaping. Planting a mix of these varieties will provide year-round interest and support local wildlife. Some popular choices include:



Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia aristata*): Vibrant red and yellow blooms that are drought-tolerant.



Rocky Mountain Penstemon (*Penstemon strictus*): Stunning purple-blue flowers that attract pollinators.

Prairie Coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*): Bright, daisy-like flowers that bloom through summer.

Blue Grama Grass (*Bouteloua gracilis*): A hardy, low-growing grass ideal for ground cover.

Blue Sage (*Salvia azurea*): A drought-tolerant magnet for pollinators.

Organic Soil Preparation for Conserving Water

Healthy plants need some water, even if they are drought-tolerant. Conserve water with these tips:



Compost: Mix 1-2 inches of organic compost into the top 6-8 inches of soil to improve its structure and nutrient content. This will help retain moisture, reducing the need for watering.

Mulch: Apply a 2-3 inch layer of organic mulch like bark chips or straw around plants. Mulch helps regulate soil temperature, prevents evaporation, and suppresses weeds.

Continued Watering Practices

Even drought-tolerant plants need water to establish and thrive. Here's how to water effectively:



Establishment Phase: Water new plants deeply 2-3 times per week for the first month. After that, gradually reduce watering to 1-2 times per week. In 2nd and 3rd years, cut back on water in non-drought months. Watch your plants, they will tell you if they are thirsty.

Deep Watering: Focus on deep watering, letting the water soak into the root zone rather than applying frequent, shallow watering. This encourages deep root growth, making plants more drought-resistant because it allows them to access moisture stored deeper in the soil.

Watering Schedule: Water in the early morning or late evening to minimize evaporation.

Organic Pest and Weed Management

Keep your garden chemical-free (safe for pets, wildlife, and children) with these organic practices:

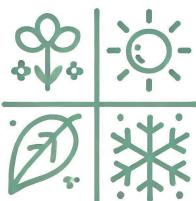


Companion Planting: Instead of pesticides - Plant herbs like lavender, dill, anise, marigolds, or yarrow among your perennials to repel pests naturally. Many of these deter rabbits/deer too.

Natural Pest Solutions: Use neem oil or a mild soap spray for aphids and other common pests. You can buy and release lady bugs in your garden and they will eat those pesky aphids also. The key is to be creative and avoid chemical pesticides, as they can harm our pollinators, pets, wildlife and neighborhoods.

Weeding: Hand-pull weeds regularly, especially after rain when the soil is soft. Boiling water is GREAT for killing weeds. Mulching also helps reduce weed growth.

Seasonal Care



Spring: Prune dead or damaged plant material. Cut back all ornamental grasses to prep for regrowth. Apply a fresh layer of compost (or compost tea) and mulch.

Summer: Monitor soil moisture and adjust watering as needed. Remove spent blooms to encourage continuous flowering throughout the season.

Fall: Leave seed heads on perennials like coneflowers to provide winter food for birds. Reduce watering as temperatures cool. Use fallen leaves as a natural mulch around plants.

Winter: Cut back perennials and trim tree branches in late winter to prepare for new Spring growth.

Benefits of Organic ColoradoScaping



Water Savings: By using native perennials and organic mulch, you can reduce outdoor water use by up to 50%.

Reduced Chemical Use: Organic gardening methods keep your soil healthy and free from harmful chemicals, supporting beneficial insects like bees and butterflies.

Low Maintenance: Once established, waterwise plants require minimal care, freeing up your time to enjoy your garden.

Final Tips

- Group plants with similar water needs together for more efficient watering.
- Consider installing a drip irrigation system to target root-watering directly. So much more efficient.
- Choose a variety of flowering plants to provide habitat and food sources for pollinators throughout the growing season.

By following these simple steps, you can create a beautiful, sustainable, and water-efficient garden that thrives in Colorado's unique climate—all while keeping it organic and environmentally friendly.

Happy gardening!

We love collaborating!

Need figuring all of this out for your yard?

Want plant-specific advice and education assistance?

ClimateScaping is here to help!
Email us today to set up a site-visit!



info@climatescaping.com

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