



DRIED OUT

Conserve water with eco-friendly landscaping

The Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority coined the term “xeriscaping” in the late 1970s to address the increasing drought risk in the region. Xeriscape, a combination of the Greek word for dry (*xeros*) and “landscape,” is environmentally aware gardening, a holistic approach to conserving water while creating a beautiful back yard with native plants and natural materials.

Dry landscaping started in the west, but it’s still an important consideration for our area. Because of several “exceptionally dry” periods in the state, the Maryland Department for the Environment urges residents to implement water conservation practices in our everyday lives, and for all of us with green thumbs, this often means xeriscaping.

Forcing something to thrive where it doesn’t belong demands added maintenance, and updating your gardens with native plants is a great way to cut extra work and give a boost to the environment. You might think this is an obvious solution, but when I think over the past 30 years, I remember many lovely coastal homes stuck with the suburban plantings and designs from past inland homes. Other clients have introduced fleets of lace bug in their gardens because they had to have azaleas. Some ruined shady yards full of trees because they wanted a full spread of grass. Even my friend, who moved to Arizona, longs for a formal, hedged rose garden, which requires gallons of water in that part of the country.