



XERIC GARDEN CLUB
of albuquerque

p.o. box 81615, albuquerque, nm 87198-1615

XGC Bulletin #104

XERIC LANDSCAPING TIPS

- ✓ Xeriscaping does not require using only native plants and plants from similar climates.
- ✓ Xeric plants typically need some irrigation while they establish their root systems. After they are established, some of these plants will need little or no supplemental irrigation. Others will be more attractive, from a landscape use perspective, and produce more flowers, if irrigated modestly during the growing season.
- ✓ Too much irrigation will stress xeric plants. This will result either in their early death, or allow them to become too large, or become an invasive within your landscape, your neighbors' landscapes, and local open spaces.
- ✓ Xeric landscapes can include grass. Less lawn not lawn-less is the better description. You can do away with all grass, but practical grass areas can be part of the package such as for play areas for children and pets.
- ✓ Don't overlook ornamental grasses — some of the most spectacular plants in the xeric landscape. They are available in a variety of sizes and colors. They are attractive year round and especially for their effect in the winter landscape. Their seeds attract birds. Many are low water users and most can be employed in a landscape to great effect.
- ✓ "Hardscape" features (large rocks, timbers, stones, gravels and similar materials) can be an integral part of the xeric landscape. They provide contrast to plant materials, making for a more effective display. They can create elevations, can be used to separate areas of a yard, and often are attractive in their own right. Garden art can provide focal points and serve in a similar capacity.
- ✓ Properly designed and constructed water features can be part of a xeric landscape. They will attract birds, beneficial insects and other wildlife, depending on the part of the city in which you live.

- ✓ Xeriscapes can look like traditional landscapes. A little planning and you can have a colorful xeric garden/landscape that offers blooms from spring to fall, but with far less maintenance and water than traditional landscapes.
- ✓ NEVER incorporate invasive species, such as salt cedar, into your xeric landscape. Invasive species are a serious problem throughout the U.S., not just in Albuquerque and New Mexico. They destroy habitat for native animals, birds, bees and other beneficial insects. They overrun and eventually kill off native plants and flowers. When incorporated in your landscape they will become even worse than when in the wild because you will be providing protected, irrigated, optimal living conditions for them.
- ✓ Visiting public gardens, taking advantage of invitations to private yards and gardens, and viewing professional plantings on commercial properties is a good way to get ideas for your xeric landscape. Pay attention to what is commonly planted to see what does well. Visit several different times of the year to see what the plants look like in different seasons, how fast they grow, etc. You can always learn from what others have done successfully (or to their dismay).

