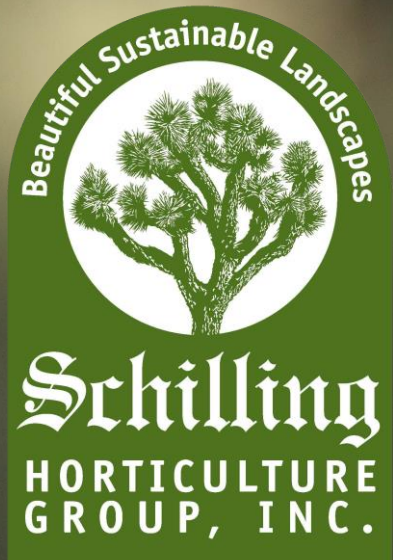


DIY Xeriscaping

With Norm Schilling



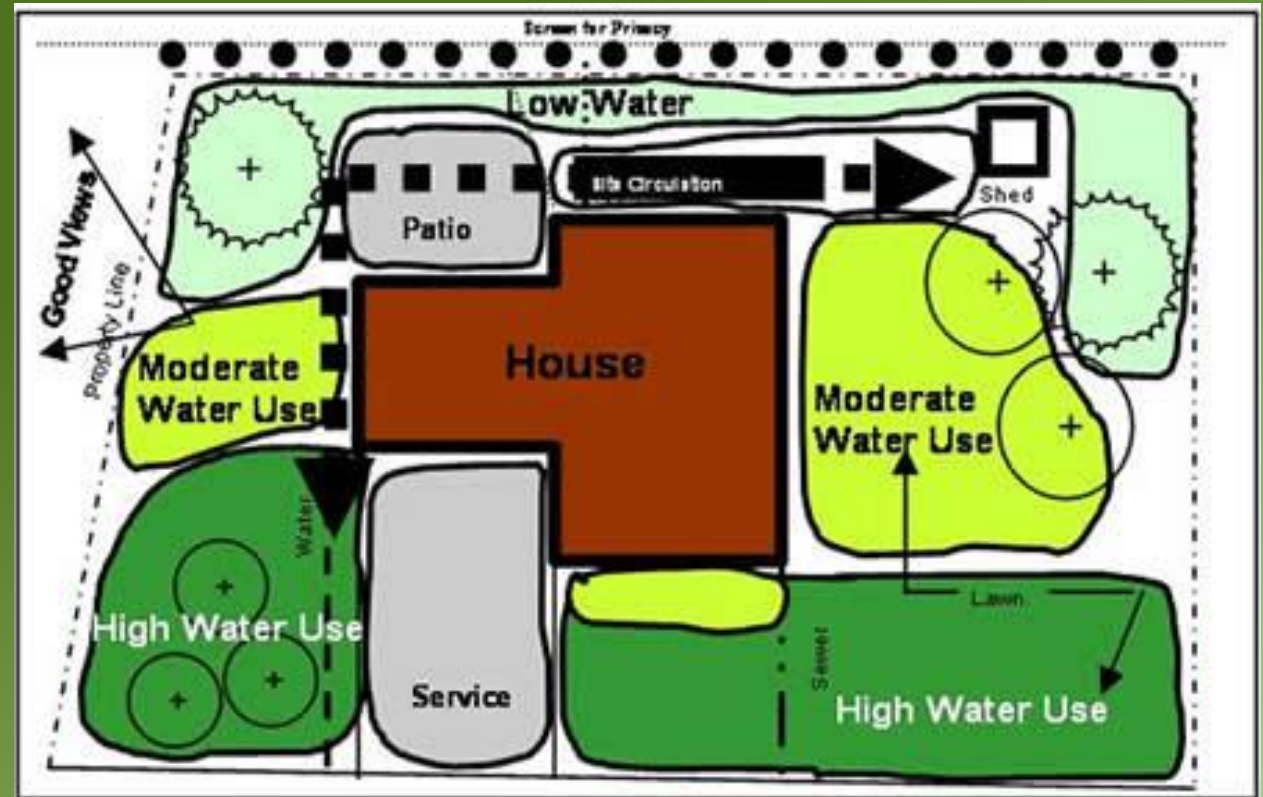
What is a Xeriscape?

- An area that has been specifically designed to withstand drought conditions and reduce water consumption
- Xeros is Greek for “dry”
- Not ZEROscaping!
- Uses native and water-efficient plants and then groups these plants together based on their water needs so they can be watered efficiently (Hydrozones)



Hydrozones

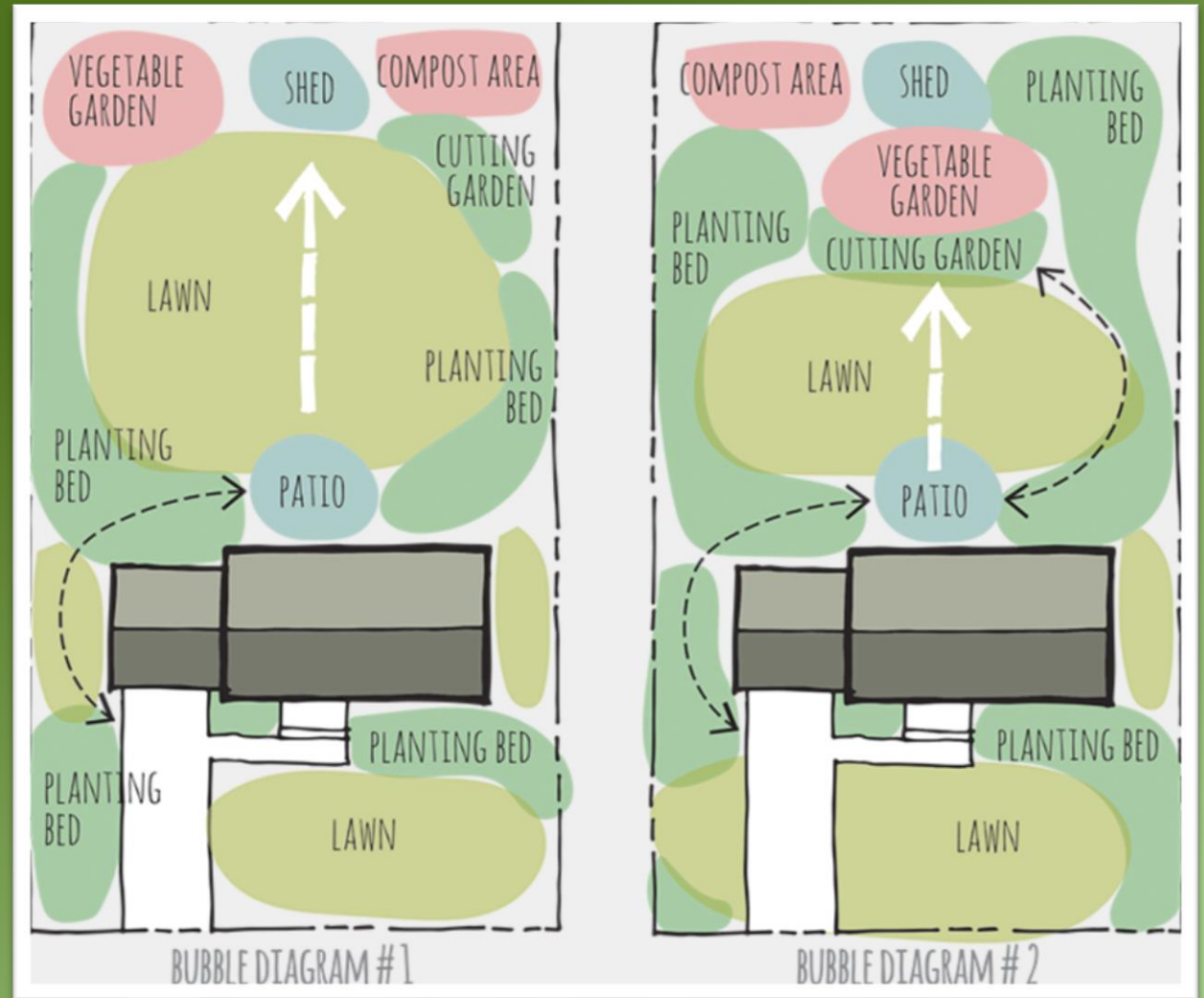
- Moderate water users
 - Also known as “traditional” plants
- Low water users
 - Also known as desert plants
- *Note: Desert plants that can take more water may go in either zone*



Where Do I Begin?

Analyze Your Yard

- Make a bubble diagram
- How do you and your family want to use the space?
- Where does the sun hit?
- Where do you want shade, and when?
- Where do you want to gather?
- How will you move about the space?
- What are your utility needs?



Where Do I Begin?

Shade Trees

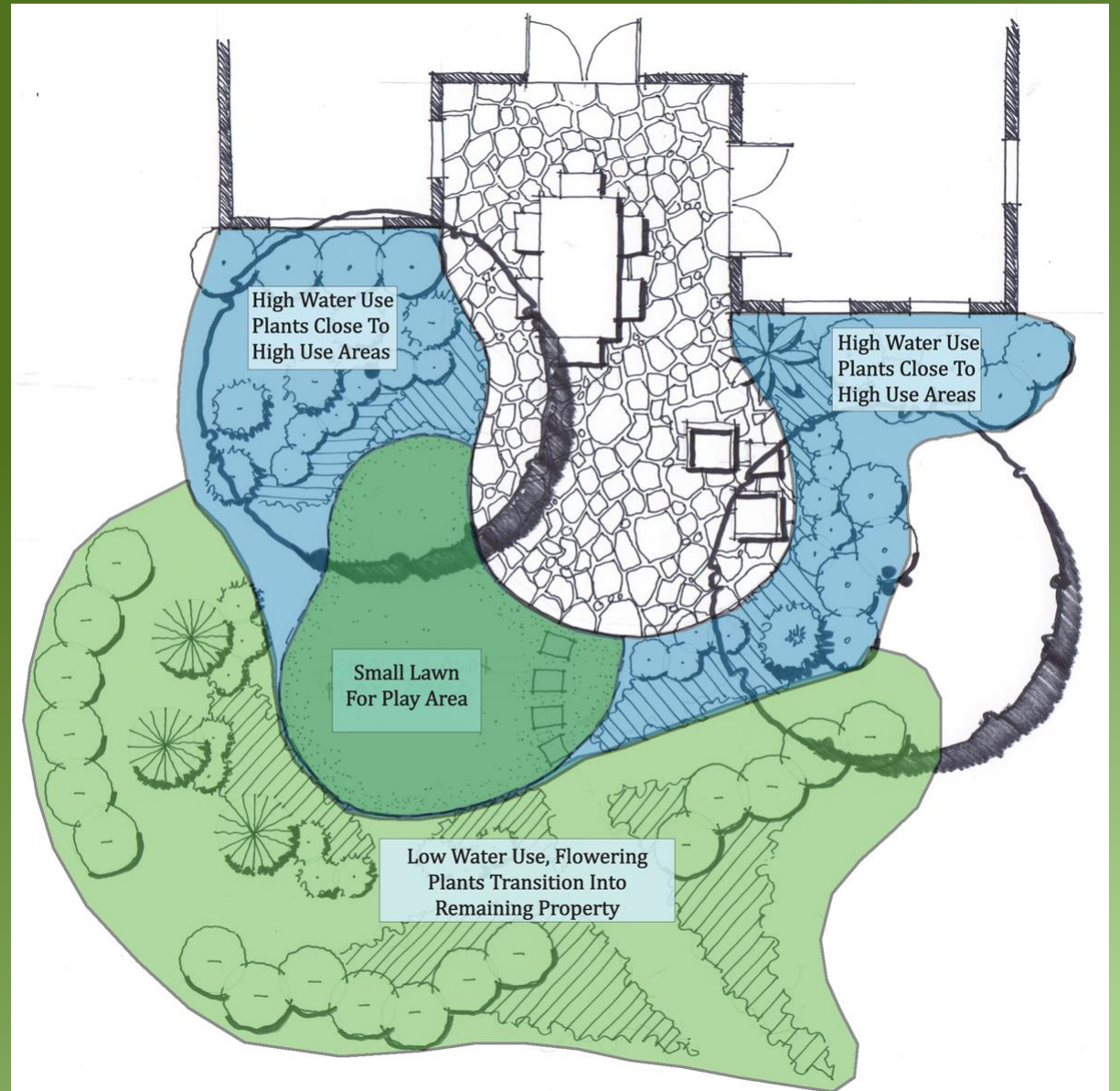
- In strategic locations
- West and south sides of structure
- Nearby windows
- In gathering spaces



Where Do I Begin?

Separate by Hydrozone

- Non-desert closer to the house/within view if you aren't a "desert plant" person
- Which area gets the most sun? This could be your desert plant zone
- Which area gets shade or rain run-off? This could be your non-desert zone



Grass: *Do You Really Need It?*

I Want It...

- Dogs
- Kids
- Green

But, at What Cost?

- Money
- Time
- Frustration
- Environmental resources

**Reduce the amount of grass in your yard
to only what you *need* and *use!***

Grass: *How to Get Rid of It*

- By Hand
- Spray herbicide
 - Bermuda grass
- Solarize



Soil Care: *Amending the Soil, or Working With It?*

Soil Care: *Amending the Soil*

- Moderate water users should have amended soil
- Add organic material to the soil
 - 15 to 20% well-decomposed organic matter by volume
 - Soil sulfur (dissolved) to reduce soil pH
 - Bone meal for a long-term phosphorous source
 - A slow-release, organic fertilizer with micro-nutrients (Gro-Power 3-12-12)



Soil Care: *Working With It*

- Choose plants that thrive in your native soil
- Desert plants should not have soils amended, merely loosened
- Desert plants that can take more water can exist in either state, but it is better if their soils are only lightly amended, if at all



Soil Care: *Managing Caliche*

- Break apart and remove as much caliche as possible when digging
 - Jack hammer
- Holes should be no deeper than the root ball, but 3 to 5 times as wide
- A small drainage hole can be made that pierces through the caliche and provides drainage
 - Not directly under the root ball
 - Use a drill
- Check Drainage
 - Fill the hole with water. If the water level drops at least four inches in four hours, then drainage should be adequate
- If all else fails, mound soil and plant higher
 - Provide two feet total depth over the entire rooting zone (one and a half to four times the mature plant canopy).
 - Use soil that is similar in texture and set trees and shrubs several inches above grade to allow for settling
 - If soil are dissimilar, integrate the top 2-4 inches

Mulching

Organic Ground Cover

- Moderate Water plants should have organic mulch placed at their base
- Wood chip products make the best mulch
- Over time (usually 2 to 5 years) the mulch will decompose and greatly enhance soil fertility and structure
- Since it does break down, it should be replaced on an as-needs basis
- Beware the blowers!



Mulching

Rock Mulch

- Desert plants perform fine in rock mulch, and actually prefer it
- Desert plants that can take more water can exist in either type of mulch
- Smaller rocks create a softer look
- Beware the ZEROscape!



Irrigation: *Drip System or Spray?*

Drip Irrigation

- More efficient
- Strategically placed emitters
- Low and slow directly to the root zone

Spray Irrigation

- Mostly good for grassy areas
- Lots of run off and evaporation

Irrigation: *Hydrozones*

- Plants should be segregated into two basic zones, desert and non-desert
- The segregation could have some clear area of barrier, either by space or object (wall) to separate them
- This way, moderate water users can get the water they need without the desert plants being over watered
- This is especially true for desert trees, and they should always be kept well-away from moderate water use areas, including lawns
- Other irrigation zones: veggie beds, orchard, potted plants

Plants: *What Should I Keep? What Should I Get Rid Of?*

Keep

- Pine
- Italian Cypress
- Arborvitae
- White Mulberry

Get Rid Of

- Ash Trees (all types)
- Silk Tree/Mimosa Tree

Plants: *What Should I Plant?*

- Put a plant where it wants to be, give it room to grow, and drink wine!
- Right plant, right place
 - Irrigation
 - Sun/shade exposure
 - Size at maturity
 - Color, form, texture
 - Excessive litter near pools
 - Pokey plants



Great Plants for the Ridgecrest Area

Sweet Acacia *Acacia farnesiana*

Size:

Up to 20-30' tall x 20-30' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun and reflected heat
NO shade

Use:

Accent tree for both color and
smell



Desert Willow *Chilopsis linearis*

Size:

Up to 25' tall x 25' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade

Use:

Accent tree for color and wildlife,
erosion control



Chaste Tree *Vitex agnus castus*

Size:

20' tall x 20' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun, light or filtered shade

Use:

Small accent tree for color



Texas Ebony *Ebenopsis ebano*

Size:

20-30' tall x 15-30' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade

Use:

Wildlife habitat, accent tree



Silver Leafed Texas Mountain Laurel

Sophora secundiflora 'Sierra Silver'

Size:

15'tall x 15' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun

Use:

Accent tree for color and smell



Lynn's Legacy Texas Ranger

Leucophyllum langmaniae 'Lynn's Legacy'

Size:

5' tall x 5' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade

Use:

Border, screen, color



Woolly Butterfly Bush *Buddleja marrubifolia*

Size:

5' tall x 5' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade

Use:

Wildlife, border, screen



Sierra Bouquet™ Sage

Leucophyllum pruinosum Sierra Bouquet™

Size:

6-8' tall x 6-8' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun, reflected heat

Use:

Border, screen, aroma



Ocotillo *Fouquieria splendens*

Size:

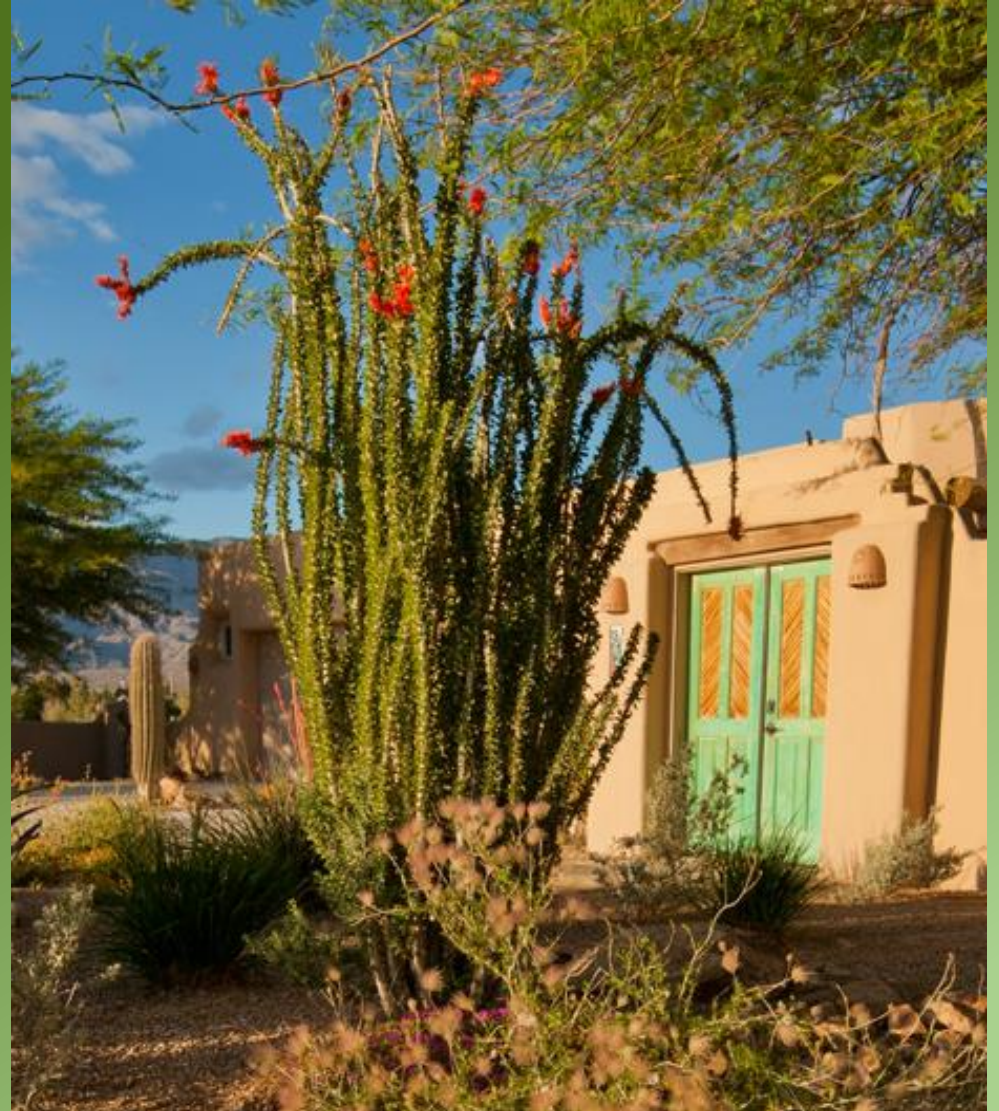
Up to 20' tall x 15' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun, reflected heat

Use:

Accent, barrier, screen



Beavertail Prickly Pear *Opuntia basilaris*

Size:

Up to 2' tall x 3' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun

Use:

Accent, color, small space



Giant Sword Flower *Hesperaloe funifera*

Size:

6' tall x 6-8' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade,
reflected heat

Use:

Accent



Artichoke Agave *Agave parryi* var. *truncata*

Size:

Up to 3' tall x 3' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade

Use:

Accent



Brakelights Red Yucca *Hesperaloe parviflora* 'Brakelights'

Size:

Foliage to 2' tall x 2' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade,
reflected heat

Use:

Accent



Angelita Daisy *Tetrandeuris acaulis*

Size:

Up to 12" tall x 15-18" wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun, reflected heat

Use:

Accent, groupings, small spaces



Blackfoot Daisy *Melampodium leucanthum*

Size:

Up to 12" tall x 15-18" wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade, reflected heat

Use:

Accent, groupings, small spaces



Golden Dyssodia *Thymophylla pentacheata*

Size:

6" to 1' tall x 1' to 2' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun

Use:

Underplanting, groupings, small spaces, naturalizing



Globe Mallow *Sphaeralcea ambigua*

Size:

Up to 3' tall x 3' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun

Use:

Accent, wildlife



Bull Grass *Muhlenbergia emersleyi* 'El Toro'

Size:

Up to 2-3' tall x 2-3' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun, part shade, reflected heat

Use:

Texture, accent, mass planting



Regal Mist Grass *Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'Regal Mist'

Size:

Foliage 3' tall x 3' wide

Sun Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade

Use:

Texture, accent, mass planting



Be sure to come back at 2 pm for
Irrigation 101: Principles and
Components for Residential Irrigation

