

Welcome to the Broomfield Xeriscape Demonstration Garden

This garden was designed to showcase the wide variety of beautiful and unique plants that thrive in our climate with only a limited amount of supplemental water.

Xeriscaping 101

On average Broomfield and the surrounding area receives 15 inches of precipitation per year. Compared to other areas of the country that receive anywhere from 30 to 70 inches of natural precipitation yearly, we live in a semi-arid climate. After a severe drought and watering restrictions in the early 1980s, a group of landscape architects, horticulturists, irrigation specialists and representatives from Colorado State University Extension, Denver Botanic Gardens and Denver Water put their heads together to develop a way to have beautiful water-wise landscapes.

The result was xeriscaping, a style of landscaping that focuses on water conservation and the use of interesting plants that use water efficiently and can be tailored to complement any home design. The term xeriscape comes from the word landscape and the Greek word xeros, meaning dry.

Throughout this garden we display examples of the seven principals of Xeriscaping:

1. Plan and design
2. Improve the soil
3. Limit turf area or select turf alternatives
4. Irrigate efficiently
5. Select plants appropriate to the conditions and group plants with like needs together
6. Mulch to reduce evaporation
7. Provide regular maintenance

Plant Select®

Plant Select is a program whose mission is to seek out and promote the best plants for gardens from the high plains to the intermountain region. It is a cooperative program administered by Denver Botanic Gardens and Colorado State University Extension, together with landscape and nursery professionals throughout the region. Plant Select plants are found throughout this garden and are widely available in nurseries and garden centers.

Broomfield Master Gardeners are happy to discuss xeriscaping and answer gardening questions. Call 303-464-5554 or visit the office or one of the Master Gardener sponsored events.

