

Xeriscaping Guidelines for Wolf Ranch HOA

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Submitted by

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There has been much said about water conservation due to all the growth of urban areas in Texas. The new growth in population has increased the demand for a limited natural resource, water. In light of this demand, water conservation has come to the forefront for state officials, community leaders and homeowners. Xeriscape is a way to address this problem. ***It is important to know that Xeriscape is more than just cactus and rock.*** It is utilizing native and adapted, drought tolerant, plants taking into consideration planning and design, soil analysis, turf selection, efficient and proper irrigation, uses of mulch and rock and maintenance. Xeriscape is an approach to landscaping that reduces water use but does not sacrifice interest and beauty of the landscape.

Wolf Ranch HOA encourages homeowners to utilize Xeriscape under the following guidelines that have been adapted by the Wolf Ranch Board of Directors:

1. All landscaping and renovation of existing landscape requires prior approval by submitting landscape plans to the Wolf Ranch Community Manager before starting any landscaping.
2. Irrigation should be drip irrigation or MP Rotator heads that are highly efficient spray nozzles spaced for proper water delivery and that lower water use. There is an existing Wolf Ranch document for irrigation giving run times throughout the year and if followed, it will reduce water usage. Multiple run times as suggested provides more efficient use of water and prevents runoff.
3. The Wolf Ranch approved plant list takes into consideration Wolf Ranch soils and plants adapted for the soil and drought tolerance. This approved plant list can be used when selecting landscape plants that tolerate drought.
4. Bermudagrass is the selected and required turf for Wolf Ranch due to drought tolerance and recovery from drought. Even if turf browns during drought, it usually will recover quickly with rain or addition of sufficient moisture. The area of turf between the sidewalk and curb edge will always remain Bermudagrass turf. Synthetic turf is not allowed in front yards.
5. With Xeriscape, a variance for 50% turf in front yard will be allowed as long as all other guidelines for planting are met.



- Mulch has to be a dark brown or black color. No red or any other colored mulch will be approved. Maintain mulch at 2 to 4 inches deep to conserve moisture in the soil.



- Rock or river rock has to be brown, gray or black toned. Lava rock is not acceptable. No other color of rock will be approved. Rock color will need prior approval before installation. No rock can be used in between sidewalk and curb edge to avoid trip hazards. No boulders or large rock exceeding 12” in height may be used as borders throughout the Xeriscape. However, larger brown, gray or black-toned boulders can be used as accents in Xeriscape beds. Rock must be used in appropriate water runoff areas.
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- Decomposed granite has to be brown or black toned. No other color of decomposed granite will be approved. Decomposed granite color will need prior approval before installation. No decomposed granite can be used in between sidewalk and curb edge to avoid trip hazards.



- Black Star gravel, Tejas Black, or brown gravel is the only approved gravel. Gravel color will need prior approval before installation. No gravel can be used in between sidewalk and curb edge to avoid trip hazards.



11. Large areas in the Xeriscape may not be composed of a single material i.e., mulch, rock, decomposed granite, gravel, is not allowed unless interspersed with plant materials.



12. All plantings for Xeriscape need to be spaced according to the full growth size of material to avoid over-planting that increases water use. Allow 9 to 16 square foot per plant depending on mature size of shrubs or perennials. Plants shall not encroach on bed edge or walls of house.



13. Xeriscape areas must be maintained free of weeds, trimmed, thinned and borders edged at all times to insure a reasonably attractive appearance.



14. No plantings may encroach onto or over public sidewalks.

15. Consider use of mounding, contours, river runs and use of flagstone and surface boulders for visual interest.



16. No plants with thorns, spines, or sharp edges can be used within 6' of the public sidewalks.
17. A minimum of 60% of shrubs must be evergreen.

Following the above guidelines, Xeriscape can be attractive but still provide a decrease in usage of our most valuable resource, water!