



Creating Drought Tolerant Landscapes

Step 3: Some Landscape Design Tips

You can be your own landscape designer! Here are some quick tips to follow:

- Use low growing plants in the front and taller plants in the back of your yard.
- Group plants in patterns of odd numbers (3,5,7) to have a more aesthetically pleasing design.
- Use low growing plants around the sprinkler heads.
- Add afternoon shade to landscape where possible, especially on the south and west facing areas. It will help you to reduce plant stress and reduce water requirements in those areas. Even plants that are rated for “Full Sun” will perform better with light afternoon shade.



Choosing Plants

- Check the plant tag
- Size at maturity (is it still going to fit when it grows?)
- Consider sun/shade requirements
- Determine the soil type that the plant needs.
- Know your hydro zones! Choose and group plants with the same water requirement.

Determining Plant Locations in the Yard

Don't plant tall/large plants above or below utility services. Look up and look down! Buried utilities can exist anywhere on your property. Call 811 two business days prior to digging, or visit the

website <http://www.digalert.org>, to prevent damage to underground utilities. This is a 100% free service, and more importantly- it's the law.

Watering Plants

- Build a berm and create a basin around all new plants, so they can be deep watered without runoff.
- Use organic mulch around all plants, and keep it at least 6" from the base of all plants, or outside the basin - if the plants have them. Apply the mulch at least 2" thick, thicker is better.
- Water plants the same day they are installed. Water deeply, but water infrequently – don't let the plants completely dry out, but do not keep them saturated either. Feel the soil moisture to determine if it needs water.