

HOME & GARDEN

Not all landscaping requires a lot of water

Xeriscaping provides attractive areas with time and cost benefits

BY SEAN HART
HERMISTON HERALD

People who do not want to spend the time and money watering landscaping features can utilize xeriscaping techniques to create aesthetically pleasing areas that require little water.

Xeriscaping simply means designing an environment that minimizes the need for water, and nursery manager Gail Redberg said people can choose certain plants that grow well with only natural precipitation,

DEFINITIONS

Xeriscaping (zeer-i-skey-ping), noun: environmental design of residential and park land using various methods for minimizing the need for water use. Origin: 1980-85; xer(ic) + (land) scaping.

Xeric (zeer-ik), adjective: of, relating to or adapted to a dry environment.

--Information from Dictionary.com.

even in Umatilla County.

"Xeriscaping is landscaping your space with plants that thrive on very little water, and the goal for most people that do xeriscaping is to be able to have either minimal doses of water in the hottest part of the



WIKI COMMONS PHOTO

This picture shows blue fescue, an ornamental grass that can be grown in this region as a candidate for a xeriscaped garden, according to OSU Extension Service.

summer or else none at all after they've established them," she said.

Redberg, interim nursery manager of the Confed-

erated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Tribal Native Plant Nursery, said people can xeriscape all or only a portion of a property,

and the first step is the same as any landscaping project: analyzing the aspect, soil and slope of the space and then selecting proper plants.

"Usually, in any kind of yard, there are microclimates within a landscape, so you might have one side of your house that because of a tree or the way the house is situated on the property that it's really in fairly deep shade for a portion of the day — you choose the type of plant that suits that location," she said. "The other thing (with xeriscaping) is there are some water conservation tactics. You want to have the opportunity to conserve as much water in your soil as possible."

Redberg said moisture can be conserved by covering the soil with a weed

barrier mulch and then covering that with pebbles or bark.

According to "An Introduction to Xeriscaping in the High Desert" by the Oregon State University

SEE XERISCAPING/11

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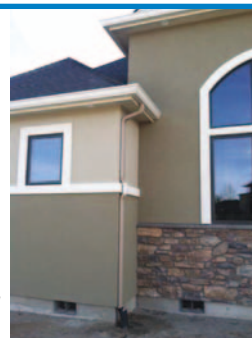


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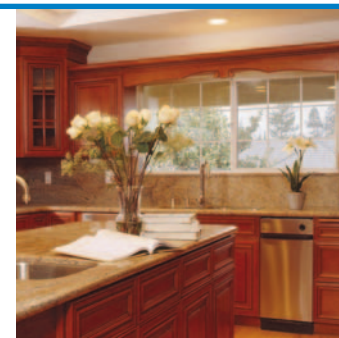
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