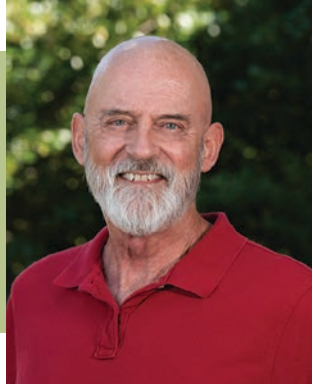


Our in-house horticulturist/arborist, Craig Miller, dispenses practical advice for those seeking to simultaneously conserve water and grow thriving, high-visual-impact, drought-tolerant (xeriscape) gardens and landscapes.



TIME TO XERISCAPE?

Xeriscape, landscaping for water savings as well as beauty, has come into its own. But, what's a homeowner to do? Tear out everything you have and start over, all in the interest of saving water? Such drastic measures probably aren't needed. Here are some guidelines that apply to owners of small-to-average-sized lots with traditional landscapes. Don't do it all at once - think about your landscape in pieces. Following are relatively inexpensive, weekend-manageable projects to get you started.



- Remove a few feet of the grass along the driveway and sidewalk. Plant these areas with xeric ground cover plants, small shrubs or perennial flowers. This allows these buffer areas to soak up water from lawn watering that normally would fall on the pavement and run off into the street.
- Consider replacing the lawn on steep slopes with a rock garden, tiered wall, or low-spreading evergreens. As with pavement buffer plantings, the water that runs down the slope from other parts of the yard will be captured by these plants.
- Re-group flowers and other plants so the yard is organized into different water use zones. Grouping or "zoning" plants with similar water requirements allows you to meet their water needs so some plants in the group are not overwatered while others are under watered. To further conserve moisture, use mulches between shrubs, flowers and in the vegetable garden.
- You may have more lawn than you want. You could remove turf from narrow, hard-to-water strips and replace it with colorful drought-tolerant plants. Remove turf from between and behind shrubs; replace it with mulch.
- Now, take a walk through your yard. Give it a second look. You will come up with ideas of your own. Be realistic about time and money. Xeriscaping slowly lets you allocate both over a span of years.

Xeric Plant of the Month

Morden Sunrise Rose, (*Rosa* × 'Morden Sunrise'), produces creamy orange buds that open to 3" wavy semi-double orange colored blossoms with yellow highlights near the base of the petals. This rose blooms from June to frost in clusters of 2 to 15, with the intensely fragrant flowers turning to a peach color as they age.

Growing 2' to 3' in height and spread, this plant is useful as a hedge and really makes a statement planted in large masses. A Canadian bred shrub rose, it develops large rose hips which persist all winter, attracting birds and wildlife. This rose is grown on its own root - if the top growth dies back during the winter, the crown will send up new growth in the spring which will be the same plant as the one you purchased. Extremely hardy up to 9,000 feet and to -30° F.

Shrub roses like this one are generally disease-free and low maintenance. If you're a no-mess type of gardener, this is the rose for you!

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BOARD UPDATE: Our community voted, overwhelmingly, to defeat the previous CPNMD administration's \$120-million renewable water plan in 2016 and its subsequent \$103-million renewable water plan in 2018. Both plans were intended to finance a mere fifty percent of our community's renewable water. Consequently, as promised, for the last eighteen months we have collaborated with our neighbor to the east, the Parker Water & Sanitation District (PWSD), on a joint **Water & Wastewater Services & Systems Integration Feasibility Study**. As that study concludes later this month, we share three preliminary conclusions. **First**, integrating our water and wastewater systems with PWSD is feasible. **Second**, some form of integration with PWSD could lower the cost trajectory of CPNMD customers' monthly water bills, and achieve our primary objective of securing the community's water future wisely and at less cost than voter-rejected plans of the past. **Third**, the study suggests another fiscally responsible option - one that could lower monthly water bills even more than merging systems and services with PWSD: namely, an out-of-district contract with PWSD. As we conclude the study, fastidiously weigh the costs and benefits of both options, and prepare to negotiate with PWSD on your behalf, please expect a substantive progress report in September.



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