



Earth-Kind[®]

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Water Efficient Practices for Saving Your Landscape

Droughts affected not only area farmers and ranchers, but also homeowners. Many homeowners are seeing their landscapes wither due to lack of rainfall and summer heat. Some homeowners are seeing their water bills skyrocket and several communities have asked homeowners to conserve water through water rationing.

To help alleviate landscape water problems this summer and in the future, consider Earth-Kind landscaping, easily defined as quality landscaping that conserves water and protects the environment.

For the past several years, residential and commercial landscapes have utilized more than 25 percent of the total water consumption in urban areas of Texas. This percentage can be reduced to extend the water supplies of Texas. By incorporating Earth-Kind principles into home or commercial landscapes, it is estimated that water usage can be cut in half.

Earth-Kind landscapes are not cactus and rock gardens. They can be cool, green landscapes full of beautiful plants which are maintained with water efficient practices. The same green, Texas-style landscapes which we are accustomed to can be achieved and still conserve water.

Earth-Kind landscaping incorporates seven basic principles which lead to water savings:

1. Planning and design
2. Appropriate plant selection
3. Practical turf areas
4. Soil improvement
5. Efficient irrigation
6. Use of mulches
7. Appropriate maintenance

By using these seven principles, you can help preserve our most precious natural resource -- water.

For more information on creating a healthy and sustainable landscape environment we invite you to visit our website at <http://EarthKind.tamu.edu> or contact your local County Extension office.