

**1907
Xeriscape plant choices**

Water saving, xeriscape landscapes have many looks because of the wide variety of interesting plants available. The features that make plants visually interesting often are the features that allow them to thrive on little water. For example, the silver leaves of lamb's-ears, lavender and gray santolina reflect the drying heat of the sun so the plant doesn't lose water from its leaves.

[](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/ptlk/1907a.html)

Many xeriscape plants, like poppy mallow, also develop deep roots and can store water. Poppy mallow's magenta flowers and green leaves complement the silver leaves of lamb's-ears, lavender or gray santolina.

Many native plants are well adapted to this region's semi-arid climate. They continue the look of a natural area into a cultivated garden. Keep in mind that some plants native to the Rocky Mountains require more water and cooler exposures, so all are not suitable choices for a xeriscape. Be sure to incorporate them into the proper microclimate of a garden.

Grasses are a dominant plant of the western landscape. Xeric shrubs, or shrubs that need little water, tend to have a fine texture and make good combinations with evergreens such as junipers and pines. Xeric shrubs include lilac, beauty bush, Apache plume, Peking cotoneaster and blue mist spiraea. There are few truly drought tolerant trees, but a few examples are Kentucky coffee tree, bur oak, honeylocust and western catalpa.

Check the xeriscape plant section at garden centers and nurseries for more plant selections and information.

For "Native plants" refer to message [1710](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/ptlk/1710.html).