

Kensington North Watersheds Association

Water Conservation Project



Want to learn a new landscaping & gardening practice that helps conserve water?

Xeriscaping: Using drought resistant plants to minimize water usage

Fun Facts:

- * Can reduce landscaping water usage
- * Maintenance is minimal other than pruning and weeding
- * Provides habitat for local wildlife



7 principles of Xeriscaping:

1. Water conservation
2. Soil improvement – drains & stores water all at once. Can be achieved by increasing the amount of organic material and keeping soil aeriated
3. Create limited turf areas – limit open, unused grass areas
4. Use appropriate plants
5. Mulch – retains moisture and reduces weeds
6. Irrigate – use soaker hoses or water slowly
7. Maintain landscape – weeding and keeping turf at a length that will not dry out roots

What types of plants should I use?

- * Perennials are better than annuals because they require less water and attention, but make sure you have workable soil that does not compact easily. Adding compostable material can help with this
- * Trees help to reduce evaporation on the ground and add protection from elements
- * Use plants with thick, glossy, fuzzy, and silver grey leaves
- * South and West exposure – use plants that need minimal water
- * North and East exposure – use plants that like more moisture
- * Try not to mix plants with high and low moisture needs in the same area to avoid over/under watering



What are a few native plants to look for?

- * **Shrubs:** Wild Rose, Red Elderberry, Staghorn Sumac (right), Bayberry
- * **Trees:** White Spruce, White Pine, Jack Pine, White Birch
- * **Most native plants on PEI are very adaptable to our climate and can withstand our weeks of warmer weather in the summer months**



What are a few Non-native plants to look for?

- * **Lilac – great for bees and hummingbirds!**
- * **Blooming Crab Apple**
- * **Black Eyed Susan**
- * **Lambs Ear**
- * **False Sunflower**



Check out www.canadiangardening.com and your local gardening service provider for more plant ideas!

Where to find water conscious plants:

- * **Check out the Macphail Woods nursery for Island grown/native trees and shrubs- www.macphailwoods.org**
- * **Kool Breeze Farms**
- * **Kensington Country Store**



Feel free to contact us at any time for further information about Xeriscaping, or talk to your local nursery about plants that can help you conserve water!

Email: kensingtonnorthwatershed@gmail.com

Website: knwsa.com



Happy Gardening!