

# Low Water Gardens



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## A Greening Powassan Fact Sheet

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Each summer we consume vast amounts of water in caring for our yards and gardens. The water we use in our yards is purified to drinking standards, which requires expensive energy and chemicals.

There are many ways to use less water while still keeping a healthy yard and gardens. Low water landscaping is called xeriscaping. It is based on choosing plants which tolerate hot, dry weather, and learning how to make a little water go a long way.

Keeping soil covered helps to hold moisture, keeps roots cool, and reduces weed growth. Good materials for mulch include wood chips, bark chips, leaves, and straw.

Try rain barrels or other containers positioned under a downspout to collect rain for later use in the yard.

- During dry summer months, household water use increases due to lawn watering. Try to keep watering to a minimum.
- Make sure you only water when the sun is down to reduce evaporation losses.
- Saving water during long, hot summers will help lower your water bill.
- Use less imported plants that require fertilizers, pesticides and water to grow.
- Using proper soil preparation and maintenance practices will help to build healthy soil and vigorous, deep-rooted plants. These plants are more resistant to disease, tolerate some insect and drought damage, and will out-compete many weeds.
- Water the plants more thoroughly than often; don't water the pathways.
- Use a trigger nozzle on the hose; just don't forget to turn the tap off when finished.
- Turn the soil over the depth of the spade.
- Use organic fertilizer.
- Try to keep lawn areas to a minimum; they are the biggest users of water.
- Prune the flowers and plants as needed.
- Use the appropriate mulch for plants.

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