

WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING

START WITH A PLAN

A good plan will not only help you decide on the look of your landscape but is also very useful in determining its overall health and maintenance (including water use). Take into consideration your lifestyle, recreation needs, budget, appearance and water requirements. Planning ahead allows you to plant in stages and keep your costs down.

Many garden centres and nurseries will help you with the development of your plan and can provide free advise on specific species requirements for water, light and soil conditions.



THINGS TO CONSIDER

Improve Soil With Compost Or Mulch – Before you plant, add a 5 to 7 centimetre layer of mulch to the soil. This organic layer slowly provides nutrients to the plants, prevents the germination of weed seeds, keeps the soil cool during the summer and helps retain water.

Keep Turf Areas Practical – Reduce your outdoor water use by limiting the amount of manicured lawn to places where it provides functional benefits such as a play area. In these areas consider replacing the traditional grasses with hardier fine fescue grasses. Replace non-essential turf areas with drought resistant groundcovers or flower beds.

Select Water Efficient Plants – When planning out your landscape consider utilizing species of plants that are drought tolerant or require little watering during the hot summer months. Your local garden centre or nursery is a great place to get help.



City of St. Catharines

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

City of St. Catharines Lake Street Service Centre 383 Lake Street
St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2N 4H5 phone: (905) 688-5601

MORE THINGS TO CONSIDER

Know Your Soil Type - Knowing your soil is very important in determining the success of your landscape. Use the table below to help you determine which soil type or types you have in your landscape.

SANDY SOILS	CLAY SOILS	LOAM SOILS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sand grains • holds little water and dries out quickly • requires frequent watering • does not bind together when wet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very fine particles • poorly aerated and absorbs water very slowly • turns hard and cracks when dry • binds together very well when wet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance of large and fine particles, well aerated • is easy to water and dries out at a moderate pace • forms a loose ball and breaks apart easily when wet

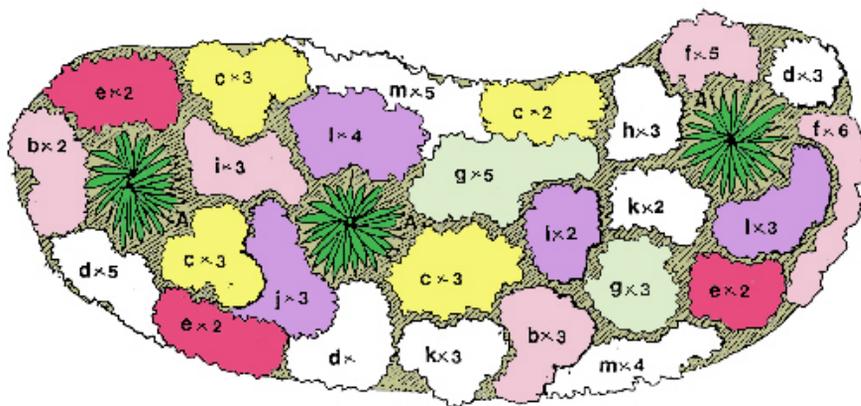
Maintenance - Decide in the planning stages how much time you want to spend in your garden weeding, feeding and watering. Choosing the right species and putting them in the right places now will ensure more time for you to sit back and enjoy your gardens later!

GARDEN PLANS

There are numerous resources available to help you plan your water efficient landscape. Below is an example of a drought-resistant border from Sheridan nurseries.

Plant List

- a. Adam's Needle Yucca
- b. Sun Rose
- c. "Moonbeam" Coreopsis
- d. White Sand Pink
- e. "Vera Jameson" Sedum
- f. Annual Portulaca
- g. "Valerie Finnis" Artemisa
- h. "Floristan White" Liatris
- i. Pink Gasplant
- j. Lavender
- k. "Sapphire" Flax
- l. Purple Coneflower
- m. Snow-in-Summer



Full Sun - approximate area 22' x 8'



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