

## Other Considerations for a Water Wise Landscape

- Create a watering schedule tailored to your landscape, and set your sprinkler controller accordingly. If both turf areas and shrubs are watered by the same sprinkler, they will receive the same amount of water - whether they need it or not.
- Adjust watering time for seasonal weather changes, and turn the controller off when it rains.
- An irrigation system that has leaks, broken parts and is not functioning properly can be the biggest water-waster of all. Inspect and repair your irrigation system on a regular basis.
- Do not forget to mulch: apply a 3-inch layer of mulch or compost around plants to promote plant growth, reduce evaporation and suppress weeds.
- If you plan on installing a new walkway, choose porous materials such as paving stones, set in sand or gravel. This allows water to drain naturally into the ground, and will help avoid unnecessary runoff which contributes to erosion and pollution.

*Do your part and help Bryan meet its current and future water needs.*



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**CITY OF BRYAN**  
*"The Good Life, Texas Style"*

# Water Wise Landscaping

## Water Wise Landscape

Do your part to conserve one of Bryan's most precious natural resources, water. A water conversation landscape can be easily incorporated into your yard or patio to create a beautiful, attractive, water wise retreat from the outside world.

Careful planning and preparation are key elements to consider when designing your landscape. Use the Six Steps to a Water Wise Landscape discussed in this brochure to help you get started. Be creative when designing your landscape, and have fun!



## Six Steps for a Water Wise Landscape

1. **Planning and Design:** When selecting trees, shrubs, ground covers, perennials and annuals for your garden, look for those that naturally grow together and group them by water needs.
2. **Turf (Lawn):** In the front yard, consider new ways to increase curb appeal with minimal turf. There are countless combinations of ground cover, shrubs, and perennials that can be used instead of turf.
3. **Choose Water Wise Plants:** The City of Bryan has a temperate climate with an average annual rain fall of 35 inches. Fortunately, there are many plants to choose from that are well suited to our climate. For more plant ideas contact the Texas Master Gardener Program or visit a local nursery.



4. **Improve Soil:** Most soils in the Bryan area are sandy or heavy clay and need to have organic matter added to improve their condition. Compost will help the soil absorb more water.
5. **Mulch:** Mulch provides a protective layer that when placed over the soil locks in moisture, moderates soil temperature and suppresses weeds.
6. **Appropriate Irrigation Methods:** Most home landscapes receive more water than they need. Use drip irrigation where feasible to water specific plants without watering adjacent soil. This will also help prevent run off.

