

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BE A SMART WATER SAVER-- TRY XERISCAPING !

Save Water Save Money!

It's that time of year when homeowner's thoughts turn to beautiful gardens and lovely landscaping. But before you start planting - then running your sprinklers or irrigation systems at full capacity - why not consider an alternative approach? Why not try Xeriscaping this year? It will save water and money.

The term "Xeriscape" comes from the Greek word "Xeros" which means dry. Therefore, the term xeriscaping developed describing a technique of planning a landscape that conserves water by using plants that are tolerant of heat and dryness. There are seven principles of xeriscaping to make your landscape more water efficient.

They are:

- Planning
- Soil analysis
- Appropriate plant selection
- Practical turf areas

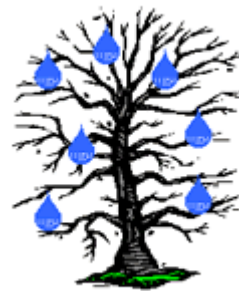
- Efficient irrigation
- Use of mulches and
- Appropriate Maintenance

By using Xeriscape-type landscape you can reduce outside water consumption by as much as 50% and help conserve our most precious resource - water!

You can select from a wide variety of trees, shrubs, ground covers, annuals and perennials. Some examples of plants, that survive well under dry conditions would be: red maple and red oak trees, Colorado blue spruce trees, burning bush, junipers, day lilies, and black-eyed Susans. These are just a few examples of the many varieties of flowering plants, shrubs and trees you can use when Xeriscaping.

To learn more about the art of Xeriscaping, check in your local library and on the internet. There are many helpful web sites on this subject. The University of Maryland has publications on-line to view at <http://www.agnr.umd.edu/CES/>. Look in the Home and Garden Information Center. Documents are in Adobe Acrobat PDF Format. Many of the states' university agricultural extension services also provide on-line information about Xeriscaping.

*Conserve
Water !!!*



It doesn't grow on trees!!!

UTILITIES BUREAU WINS GOLD AWARD FOR COMPETITIVENESS
ONE OF 24 UTILITIES NATIONWIDE TO RECEIVE HONOR

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) awarded Anne Arundel County DPW Bureau of Utility Operations their Gold Award for competitiveness at their 2001 annual meeting. "AMWA's 24 Gold Award-winning agencies are setting the pace for utility management practices to ensure success in an increasingly competitive environment," said AMWA Executive Director Diane VanDeHei. "To meet competitive challenges, these municipal water leaders are employing exceptional management practices, creating new financial courses, seeking new growth opportunities and

meeting customer needs on every front." "Consumers and public officials have reason to salute the achievements of the award-winning agencies that serve their communities, VanDeHei said. "AMWA's Gold Award winners are in the top ranks of the nation's best-operated water systems. They stand as innovative and successful representatives of public owned drinking water suppliers ." Entries were judged by experienced and respected water system executives who looked at each utility's

benchmarking and competitiveness strategy and assessed competitive improvement initiatives in the areas of plant, maintenance, engineering, finance, administration and employee development as related to overall efficiency, cost of operation and quality of service. Anne Arundel County through its EXCEL, Excellence in Cost Effective Leadership, program demonstrated how the successful use of a labor-management task force can achieve the goal of environmentally sound water and wastewater services while also achieving rate stability. The EXCEL pilot project strives to improve productivity and efficiency among utility employees.

EMERGENCY SERVICES--YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

Who is the first line of defense for utility customers with a problem? Emergency Services. The Emergency Services dispatchers answer 59,000 customer emergency calls a year, dispatching emergency crews and calling in repair crews after normal working hours.

The dispatchers are also responsible for operating the SCADA computer system which monitors the status of all the wastewater pump stations, wastewater treatment plants and elevated water tank levels within the county on a 24 hour a day, 365 day a year basis.

Emergency Service crews provide the first response to utility related emergencies. They evaluate the situation, shut down valves in the event of water leaks and evaluate sewer blockages either

opening the line when on the county side or advising the homeowner to call a plumber when the blockage is the property owner's responsibility. Their analysis of the situation determines the appropriate response by repair crews.

Emergency dispatchers also answer calls for the Bureau of Highways and Waste Management Services after working hours.

So, should you have a problem with your water or wastewater service, anytime 24 hours a day - the first call for help should go to Emergency Services. We are there to serve you!

410-222-8400

410-451-4118 (South County)

Save your sewer system

Cut the grease...

Did you know that household grease can clog your sewer pipes and cause backups and overflows? That's right. Simple household grease from everyday foods and cooking oils can clog your sewer pipes and the county sewer lines and cause backups. Home garbage disposals do not help prevent this damage. Homeowners should never dispose of grease in any form down their drains. The easiest and safest way to dispose of household grease is to refrigerate it until it solidifies, then dispose of it along with your regular household garbage.

CONSERVATION TIPS FOR OUTSIDE WATER USE



Outdoor water usage is one of the largest potential residential water wasters, especially in the spring and summer. To help stop water waste while maintaining your lawn and gardens, follow these easy tips:



Only water your lawn when it needs it. Step on the grass and if it springs back, it doesn't need water.



Use a 5/8 inch hose instead of a 3/4 inch hose.



Water early in the morning so more water is absorbed into the lawn and less evaporates.



Use a broom, not a hose, to clean a porch, steps or driveway.



Divert rainwater from downspouts into a barrel which you can purchase or make from a garbage can with a plastic bag liner. When needed, use on the lawn and garden.



When using your sprinkler, be sure it is watering the lawn, not the sidewalk, street or driveway.



Be sure your irrigation system is checked for leaks regularly. Repair leaking hose connections or sprinkler valves.



Wash your car using a bucket of soapy water, and only use the hose for rinsing.

County Wins National EPA Biosolids Award

The Bureau of Utility Operations won the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2001 National First Place Award for its outstanding Biosolids Exemplary Management Awards Program in the Greater Than 5 Million Gallons Per Day Operating Project Category. EPA stated they chose Anne Arundel County's program for the honor based on their outstanding use of a public/private partnership to dewater, lime treat

and land apply biosolids from its six wastewater treatment facilities. Anne Arundel partners with Synagro Mid-Atlantic, Inc. In its 17th year, the county biosolids program manages 100% of the county's daily output of approximately 33 dry tons of biosolids. This effort reflects the cooperation of wastewater treatment operations staff, Synagro, Inc., the local farming community and local community and elected leaders.