



Cardinal Valley (TX1050068), Mountain Crest (TX1050111),  
Woodcreek I (TX1050037), & Woodcreek II (TX1050039)

Recent hot and dry weather conditions, paired with high outdoor water usage has put a strain on the local wells and our water source. In accordance with the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District's mandatory restrictions, Aqua is updating the current Stage 4 watering restrictions. These updates will remain in effect until further notice.

**As this severe drought period continues, your community will be moving to mandatory NO OUTDOOR WATER USE effective immediately.** With climate projections for higher-than-normal temperatures and the probability of precipitation being insignificant through October, the need for conservation is critical.

**At all times, all outdoor water use is prohibited. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to the following:**

- All landscape and lawn watering.
- Filling/refilling or topping off pools, ponds, fountains, waterfalls, or other water features.
- Washing of vehicles, house exteriors, or any other forms of outdoor surface/ power washing.

Continue to monitor drought conditions in your area and implement any additional individual conservation practices possible. Our team will closely monitor customer usage and **customers in violation of these mandatory restrictions will have a flow restrictor installed on their service line. Please note that excessive use is considered a violation.**

Please review:

- The attached brochure from the Texas A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE which outlines guidelines for xeriscaping (water conserving landscaping).
- The attached diagram with the current drought predictions through October 2023.
- The NOAA Webpage at <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/index.php> for an interactive map on drought conditions and/or predictions.
- [AquaWater.com](http://AquaWater.com) for tips on how to be more efficient with water use in your home.

We appreciate your willingness to partner with Aqua Texas to preserve Earth's most essential resource.

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By  
AUG 15 2023

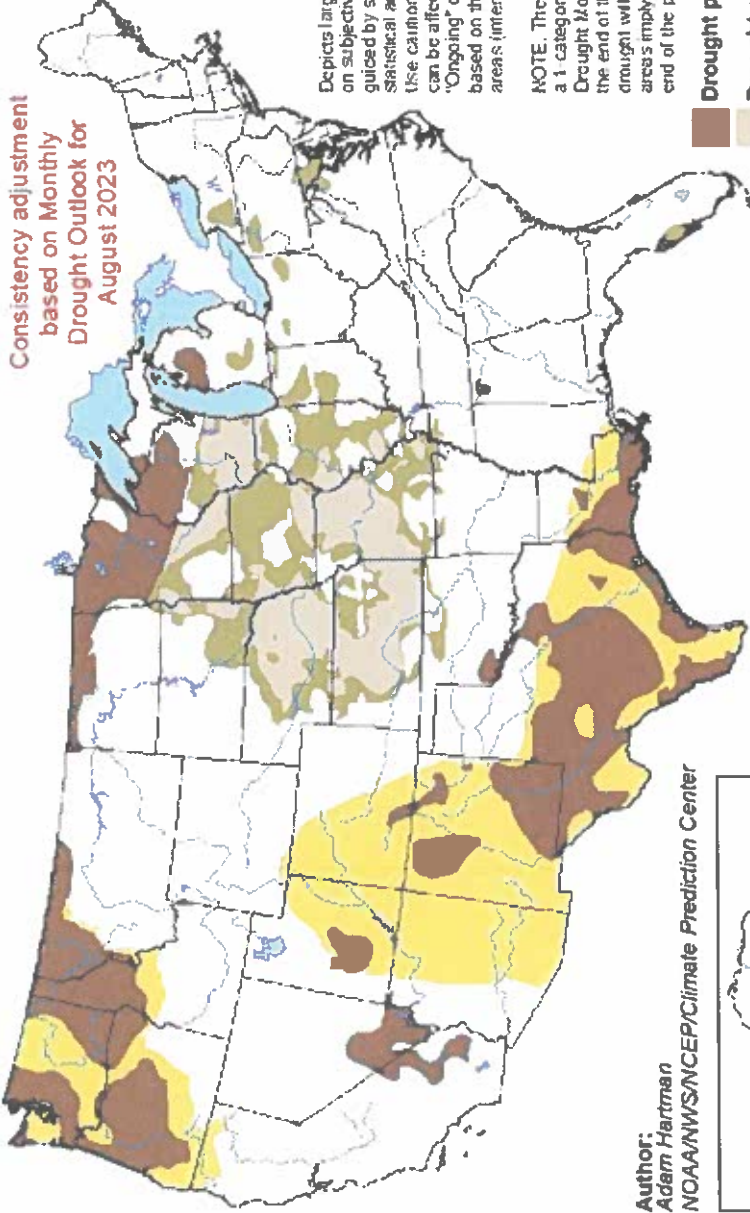
# Seasonal U.S. Drought Outlook

The latest seasonal drought outlook from the [Climate Prediction Center](#)

## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for August 1 - October 31, 2023  
Released July 31, 2023

Consistency adjustment  
based on Monthly  
Drought Outlook for  
August 2023



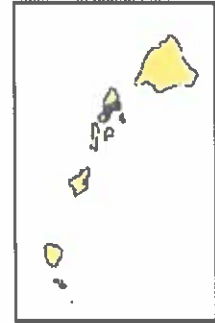
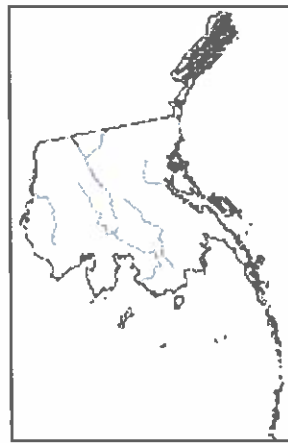
Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4)

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1 category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none)

- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>





**Resource References**

- Judith Phillips, Southwestern Landscaping with Native Plants, Museum of New Mexico Press, 1987
- Connie L. Ellefson, Thomas I. Stephens, Doug Weisch and Douglas F. Welsh, Xeriscape Gardening-Water Conservation of the American Landscape, Macmillan Publishing, 1992
- A. Michael Powell & James F. Weedon, Cacti of the Trans-Pecos & Adjacent Areas, Texas Tech University Press, 2004
- Greg Starr, Cool Plants for Hot Gardens, Rio Nuevo Publishers, 2009
- Mary & Gary Irish, Agaves, Yuccas and Related Plants. A Gardener's Guide, Timber Press, Inc., 2000
- Meg Quinn, Wildflowers of the Desert Southwest, Rio Nuevo Publishers, 2000

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*Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating*

**Challenges of Desert Landscapes**

- Low rainfall—8 to 10 inches/year, most of which falls during short summer monsoon and winter.
- Low humidity—usually 20 to 30%.
- High, gusting winds.
- Soil—clay to sandy loam, highly alkaline, highly saline with lots of rock.
- Temperature—as low as 10 to 15 degrees in winter and triple digit highs in summer.
- Mandatory water rationing every summer.



**Texas Native Plants**

- Trees
- Shrubs
- Perennials
- Short-lived Perennials
- Annuals and Biennials
- Grasses
- Succulents/Semi-succulents

For recommendations, go to:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/elpasoplants/index.html>

**XERISCAPE**

**LANDSCAPES FOR THE  
 DESERT SOUTHWEST**



# LANDSCAPE PRINCIPLES FOR THE DESERT

## What is Xeriscape?

Xeriscape means "dry landscaping" - perfect for an area like the desert. Xeriscape creates a visually attractive landscape that uses native plants selected for their water efficiency. Properly installed and maintained, a Xeriscape can use less than one-half the water of a traditional landscape and require less maintenance than a landscape that is primarily lawn.

Does that mean you have to give up your lawn? No! But if you minimize the amount of turfgrass, using it for appropriate areas such as near a pool, next to your home's foundation, or for pet or children's play areas, you can save a significant amount of irrigation water.

There are many colorful native plants that use little supplemental irrigation. Pairing these colorful beauties with our native cacti, succulents and desert accent plants creates stunning landscapes.

## Benefits of Xeriscape!

**LESS WATER.** For most of North America, over 50% of residential water used is applied to landscapes and lawns. Xeriscape can reduce landscape water use by 50 - 75%, creating substantially reduced costs for the homeowner.

**LESS MAINTENANCE.** Aside from occasional pruning and weeding, maintenance is minimal. Watering requirements are low and can be met with simple irrigation systems.

**LESS FERTILIZERS OR PESTICIDES.** Using plants native to your area will reduce or eliminate the need for chemical supplements. Sufficient nutrients are provided by healthy organic soil.

**IMPROVES PROPERTY VALUE.** A good Xeriscape can raise property values which more than offset the cost of installation. Protect your landscaping investment by drought-proofing it.

**CAN BE POLLUTION FREE.** Fossil fuel consumption from gas mowers is minimized or eliminated with minimal turf areas. Small turf areas can be maintained with a reel mower.

**PROVIDES WILDLIFE HABITATS.** Use of native plants, shrubs and trees offer a familiar and varied habitat for local wildlife.

***Xeriscapes save homeowners money, reduce pollution and conserve water!***

## Seven Principles of Xeriscape.

**PLANNING AND DESIGN.** The fundamental element of Xeriscape design is water conservation. Smart homeowners look for ways to reduce the amount of applied water and to maximize use of natural precipitation.

**SOIL.** The ideal soil drains quickly and stores water at the same time. This may require increasing the amount of organic material in your soil and keeping it well aerated. Compost is the ideal organic additive. It may be worthwhile to have your soil tested.

**PLANT SELECTION.** For best results, select plants that are native to your region. Use drought-resistant plants. Select plants for their ultimate size to reduce pruning.

Don't mix plants with high- and low-watering needs in the same planting area. Trees help to reduce evaporation by blocking wind and shading the soil.

**PRACTICAL LAWNS.** Reduce the size of turf areas; retaining some turf for open space, functionality and visual appeal.

**EFFICIENT IRRIGATION.** Avoid

overwatering. Soaker hoses and drip-irrigation systems offer the most efficient watering because they deliver water directly to the base of the plant. In general, it's best to water deeply and less often.

**MULCH.** Cover the soil's surface around plants with a mulch, such as coarse compost, wood chips, bark or gravel. Mulch helps retain soil moisture and temperature, prevent erosion and block out competing weeds.

**MAINTENANCE.** Xeriscapes can decrease maintenance by as much as 50 percent through reduced mowing; once-a-year mulching; elimination of weak, unadapted plants; and more efficient irrigation.

