

Some Choices

Dahlia (Zone 3)

When choosing your Zone 3 plants, consider what is important for you in your garden as these plants require the most water, care and fertilizer. Maximize on the plants you use by placing them around the house for easy access and visibility. Choose favourite flowers like Dahlias that are colourful and make great cuttings.

Daylilies (Zone 2)

Zone 2 plants are still colourful. Try adding Daylily varieties to your garden. Most strains require at least 6 hours of sunshine, but will grow in almost any soil condition, and once established are drought tolerant and pest resistant. Try mixing different varieties for a colourful backdrop that will bloom all summer long.

Hostas (Zone 1)

Zone 1 plants can largely be left alone, but will still provide a bright backdrop to your garden. Try mixing hostas with native ferns for a healthy mix of green and whites in shady spots or as ground cover under larger trees.

Water Wise Demonstration Garden



Summer drought is the 'new normal'.
So is managing our water supply better.
This brochure series offers tips and tools
to make 'living to the new normal' easier.



Water Wise Gardening



Why Plant in Zones?

80% OF ALL PLANT PROBLEMS
ARE THE RESULT OF WATERING

All plants need to be watered differently. By grouping plants into zones based on watering requirements and maintenance, you can maximize the water you use, reduce maintenance, and help keep all of your plants healthy.

High Water Use Areas (Zone 3)

Zone 3 includes lawns, ornamental plants and annuals. Often more colourful and showy, plant these types in areas where they will receive the most attention. These plants often require the most maintenance, pruning, watering and fertilizing so grouping them along pathways and close to the house makes gardening easier.

Medium Water Use Areas (Zone 2)

The plants in Zone 2 require less water during times of drought. There are many varieties of colourful drought tolerant plants on the market: perennials, 'xeriscape' shrubs and ground cover that require less water. This zone is in the middle of your yard or garden and once established requires minimal watering.



Low Water Use/Unirrigated Areas (Zone 1)

Located furthest from your house and in areas that are difficult to water, Zone 1 plants typically consist of native plants, evergreen trees and shrubs. The plants in this zone rarely require attention to look good, are largely self-sufficient and create a green backdrop year round.



Water wise plants can be identified by their leaves. Water wise plants feature small, waxy or fuzzy leaves.

Mulching

A mulch is usually an organic substance that covers and protects the soil. It reduces the amount of moisture lost through evaporation, inhibits weed growth and breaks down into nutrients available in the soil. Common mulches include wood chips, leaves, straw or compost.

Layers

Plant in layers, from trees, to perennials and bulbs. This will give you a natural look and help to smother weeds while shading the soil to prevent evaporation.

Right Plant, Right Place

Some plants just won't grow well in some areas. If there is a plant in your garden that continues to wilt, attract bugs or generally grows poorly, try transplanting it to a different area of your yard.

Other Tips

Native Plants

Adding native plants (usually drought tolerant) to Zones 1 and 2 help to reduce water consumption, while reducing maintenance, pruning, fertilizing and disease problems.

Irrigation

If you have an irrigation system remember to set it to water each zone differently, based on plant needs, shade and sun.



Healthy soil holds water better, meaning you can water less often.

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