Landscape the Water-Wise Way!

What is Water Wise Landscaping? It's planning your yard so that you get the most beauty and functionality for minimal water use. This is also known as Xeriscaping, a word trademarked by the National Xeriscape Council. Why is this important in our area? Our summer water usage spikes 20% over that used in the winter. That extra water is going to outdoor activities, primarily landscaping. Minimizing your irrigation will make a difference in our water supply!

Xeriscaping Principles:

1. Plan Your Landscape - This is the first step to any successful landscape

2. Prepare Soil Adequately - Good soil is the basis for healthy plants & optimum water use

3. Select Plants Wisely - Pick plants based on their natural ability to do well in our area

4. Mulch Your Gardens - Use mulch to conserve soil moisture

5. Use Optimum Cultural Practices - Proper lawn care conserves moisture in the soil

6. Use Turfgrass Appropriately - Limit grass to where there is a functional benefit

7. Use the Best Watering Method - Soils vary in their ability to hold water

A good place to start learning about Water-Wise landscaping is with this brochure, written by the Virginia Cooperative Extension: