

Some Choices

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

Ornamentals

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 nutrients. Choose favourite flowers like Dahlias that are colourful and make great cuttings.

Daylilies (Zone 2)

There are many varieties of colourful drought tolerant Zone 2 plants on the market: perennials, 'xeriscape' shrubs and ground cover. 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.

Drought Tolerant Hedges and Shrubs

Once established, about three years after first planted, drought tolerant species will handle drier weather with less maintenance and care. For evergreen species that grow over 6 feet tall try Oregon Grape, Silk Tassel Bush and Pacific Wax Myrtle. If you would like species that grow less than 6 feet try Salal or Evergreen Huckleberry.

Lawn Alternatives

Alternatives to water hungry lawns can add beauty and texture to your outdoor space, decreasing costs and maintenance while benefiting your entire watershed. There are many alternatives to choose from including groundcovers, permeable pavers, xeriscaping and naturscaping. By opting for a permeable alternative you will allow rain to penetrate into the soil below and recharge groundwater. Some low maintenance plant options are creeping thyme, sedums and succulents, white and micro clover and native moss varieties.

Water Wise Demonstration Garden

To tour a water wise garden visit the WaterSmart Chartwell Garden at 846 Yambury Road in French Creek

helpful websites

Great Plant Picks

www.greatplantpicks.org

Plant Wise

beplantwise.ca

Habitat Acquisition Trust

www.hat.bc.ca/gardening-with-native-plants

Invasive Species Council of BC

bcinvasives.ca



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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WATER WISE GARDENING



A Water Wise Garden is about planting the **RIGHT PLANT, IN THE RIGHT PLACE.** The right soil is important too! Healthy soil acts like a sponge, holding water at the roots of the plant so you can water less often.



Together Soil, Mulch & Plant Type make a Water Wise Garden

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 and visibility. These plants **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. Locate this zone in the **middle of your yard or garden**, as once the plants are established they will require minimal watering and maintenance.

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.

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 grow poorly, **try transplanting it to a different area of your yard**. Consider the plants' optimal environment and needs before planting. Plant your garden in layers, from trees to perennials and bulbs, to give your landscape a natural look while helping to smother weeds and shade the soil to prevent evaporation.



native plants

Adding native plants (usually drought tolerant) to Zones 1 and 2 helps to reduce water consumption, while reducing maintenance, pruning, fertilizing and disease problems. By choosing native species you are not only decreasing maintenance but also **providing habitat for native species, encouraging beneficial insects** and protecting our watershed from the spread of invasive species.

healthy soil is alive!

Soil with high organic matter content can hold up to 90% of its weight in water. In this way, soil is like a sponge! **A healthy community of organisms living in your soil** help to break down organic matter into nutrients that feed your plant, create structure and space in your soil where water is stored and help to discourage pests and disease.

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 that feed soil organisms and plants. Common mulches include wood chips, leaves, straw or compost.

cover cropping

Consider planting a cover crop in the fall that will add nutrients to your soil over winter and can be removed before spring planting; such as, **fava beans, Austrian peas and winter wheat**. A cover crop will add organic matter to your soil, increase the abundance of beneficial organisms, provide weed control, protect against soil and nutrient loss and improve water retention.

irrigation

If you have an irrigation system, remember to **set it to water each zone differently, based on plant needs, shade and sun, and aspect**. Review your schedule throughout the watering season so it is set appropriately for the current weather conditions and watering restrictions. Regularly inspect your irrigation system and emitters for leaks and inefficiencies.



xeriscape

Watershed Protection starts at Home

