

CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING GUIDANCE

Conservation landscaping is characterized by deep high-quality soil, less turf and more native plants.

Conservation landscaping:

- Requires less water and can save up to 70% on outdoor watering costs.
- Eliminates the need to apply fungicides, pesticides and synthetic fertilizer.
- Reduces mowing and maintenance time by a third.
- Does not require an irrigation system.
- Uses deep, high-quality soil to provide the foundation a healthy landscape needs to grow.
- Uses native and well-adapted plants that thrive in Texas' tough climate.
- Uses a design that ensures proper placement and spacing of plants.



GUIDANCE FOR CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING

Soil

- Minimum soil depth: 6 to 8 inches.
- Use healthy, native soil: a minimum 20% compost and less than 20% clay. Soil should be filtered of materials larger than 1 inch diameter (stones, stumps, roots, etc.).
- Do not use sandy loam. Caliche is not considered soil.



Turf

- Choose a recommended turf species based on the slope of the lawn.
 - Slopes less than 20%: blue grama, buffalo grass, curly mesquite, bermuda, zoysia or shortgrass prairie seed mixes.
 - Slopes greater than 20%: bunch grasses and shortgrass prairie seed mixes.
- Maintain grass on the highest mower setting (around 3 inches) to maximize root growth and water retention.



Plants and trees

- Choose native and well-adapted plants. Browse the [Grow Green Native and Adapted Landscape Plants Guide](#) for plants native to the Edwards Plateau.
- Add 2 to 4 inches of a high-quality organic mulch/compost blend to landscape beds to protect plant roots and retain soil moisture. Reapply mulch annually.
- Avoid using rock instead of mulch. Rock creates higher localized temperatures.
- Place new trees strategically to provide shade from the afternoon sun.



Conservation Landscaping Design Example



Edwards Plateau native shade trees, such as Texas Red Oak



Blue grama, buffalo grass, curly mesquite, bermuda, zoysia or shortgrass prairie seed mixes



A biodiverse selection of Edwards Plateau native shrubs, forbs, fruiting plants and grasses



For more information

Visit www.lcra.org/hlwo or contact LCRA at hlwo@lcra.org.

