

What is a Texas SmartScape?

SmartScapes are NOT

Desert 'Scapes
Rock Gardens
Cactus Patches



SmartScapes ARE

Well Adapted to the Texas Heat
Drought Tolerant
Pest and Disease Resistant
Attractants of Beneficial Animals and Insects

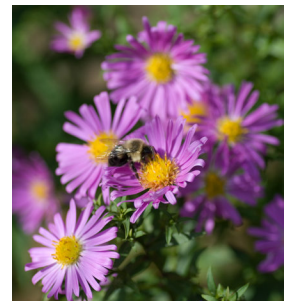
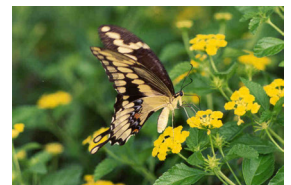
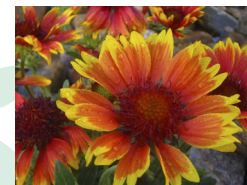
TxSmartScape.com helps you

Get Inspired
Plan Your Garden
Choose the Best Plants for Your Yard
Maintain a Beautiful Yard with Minimal Effort

By Using Native and Adaptive Plants, you

Conserve Precious Water
Reduce Stormwater Runoff
Prevent Water Pollution
Provide Wildlife Habitat
SAVE TIME AND MONEY!

No matter what point you are starting from, you can add ease, comfort, and enjoyment to your yard or garden by using native and adapted plants. Visit www.txsmartscape.com for more information on garden design, plant care, and to browse our database of native Texas plants or gallery of smartscape yards.



Scan this QR code to visit
www.txsmartscape.com
with your mobile device.



7 Steps to a Smart Yard



1. Plan and Design

Start with the end in mind. Consider your family's needs and desires when envisioning your perfect yard. Once you have a solid idea of what you want, look critically at what you've got. What are the permanent fixtures or restrictions? What plants do you want to keep? Prioritize your needs and create a plan.

2. Reduce Turf

"Less" means "more." Less turf means more time for you to enjoy your lawn, and more money in your pocket because you won't have to water as much. Add more flower beds with SmartScape plants. Add large, sweeping curves to the landscape to make it visually appealing. Add or widen pathways, and use groundcovers where it makes sense. Groundcovers under trees and on slopes can often give the look of grass, but you don't have to maintain them.

3. Soil

Organic matter is the key to a solid foundation to help your plants thrive. Compost helps to condition the soil, hold moisture, prevent run-off, reduce erosion, and unlocks nutrients in the soil. One way to improve water absorption is to add raised beds. Raised beds will also help improve drainage, reduce soil compaction, and reduce weeds.

4. Planting

The right plant in the right place. Use the txsmartscape.com plant database to find native and adapted plants that are well suited to our environment. By choosing native plants, they are naturally drought-tolerant as well as disease and pest resistant. This will reduce your irrigation, fertilizer, and pesticide requirements. When planning your yard or garden, use a wide range of plants and plant with room for their mature size. When planting or transplanting, water the plant, water the hole, water the plant in the hole.

5. Mulch

How much Mulch? Regularly adding mulch to maintain about a 3-inch blanket is a good for beds and around trees. Mulch helps reduce evaporation and cools soils in the summer by up to 10 degrees. Mulch also helps reduce erosion, diseases, and prevents weeds from getting a foothold. Never pile mulch up around trunks or stems, instead it should be like a shallow bowl around the trunk.

6. Water-Wise

Efficient irrigation will save you money. It is best to water in the early morning when evaporation rates are lowest. Water 5-10 minutes (or until runoff begins), then water that area again 10 minutes later for another 5-10 minutes (or until 1" of water total has been applied to that area). 1" of water a week should be enough for native plants to survive even the hottest summers. Look into using drip irrigation. Also, turn off your sprinklers when it rains, because that is just wasting water and money.

7. Maintenance

Regularity and moderation should guide your maintenance schedule. Avoid excessive pruning as natural beauty softens the landscape. If you chose well adapted plants for your location, maintenance should be minimal. If you do encounter problems, try cultural, organic, physical, and mechanical means of pest control instead of chemicals.

Visit www.txsmartscape.com for more helpful information about planning, planting, and maintaining a beautiful landscape with minimal continued effort and cost.

