XERISCAPING 101

Xeriscaping is especially beneficial due to our semi-arid climate, frequent drought conditions, and limited water resources. By choosing water-efficient landscaping, homeowners can conserve water, reduce maintenance, and create a beautiful, sustainable outdoor space. Some key considerations for Xeriscaping in Colorado are:

1. Use native and drought-tolerant plants. Colorado has a variety of native plants that thrive in dry conditions. Here are just a few.

- Perennials: Rocky Mountain Penstemon, Blanket Flower, Prairie Coneflower
- Shrubs: Rabbitbrush, Leadplant, Serviceberry
- Grasses: Blue Grama, Little Bluestem, Buffalo Grass
- Ground Covers: Kinnikinnick, Winecups, Creeping Mahonia

2. Use efficient irrigation. Drip irrigation or soaker hoses work best for water efficiency. Water early in the morning or late in the evening to prevent evaporation. Consider rain barrels for harvesting water (legal in Colorado for limited use).
3. Don't skip soil preparation. Colorado soil is often clay-heavy, so improving drainage may be necessary. Use compost or organic matter to enhance water retention while maintaining drainage.
4. Mulch for moisture retention. Organic mulch (wood chips, bark) helps retain moisture and insulate the soil. In very dry areas, inorganic mulch (gravel, rocks) can be effective.
5. Reduce or replace lawn areas. Traditional turf requires significant water; instead, use native grass. Consider artificial turf, decorative gravel, or hardscaping elements like patios and pathways.
6. Incorporate hardscaping & functional design. Use rocks, boulders, flagstone paths, and dry creek beds for visual appeal.

McCord's Garden Center & Landscaping

McCord's Garden Center and Landscaping

2720 McShane Drive, Monument, CO 80132

(719)375-3573 | www.mccordgardens.com