



Irrigation and Landscaping TIPS FOR HOT SPRINGS LANDSCAPES

If you have a sprinkler system, you may want to consider measures to save money on your monthly water bill. That means using your water wisely and selecting plant materials that require less water.

Most of Garland County is in Planting Zone 8. We have a humid, subtropical climate. Summers are typically hot and subject to drought. Winters are short and temperatures may vary from very cold to mild. Here are some suggestions on how to maximize the benefit from the money you spend.

Watering Systems

- Adjust your irrigation system with changes in weather. Water only when necessary. If it is raining, do not run the system. Consider a “rain shut-off” device to help.
- If you use a hose type sprinkler, use a timer to avoid running for excessive periods.
- Use soaker and drip irrigation hoses that limit water output.
- Operate your system in early morning hours to reduce evaporation.
- Water deep, but infrequently to encourage deep root growth.
- Keep your sprinkler system well maintained and efficient – check regularly for broken heads, blocked nozzles, leaks and faulty valves.
- DO NOT water driveways, sidewalks and streets.

Planning and Design

- Create a practical plan for design. You may wish to consider budget, appearance, maintenance and microclimate aspects such as sun, shade and slope within the area.
- Analyze your soil - contact your local county Extension office for directions on collecting soil samples
- Add organic matter to the existing soil to help retain moisture. The City of Hot Springs operates a compost facility. Contact 501-802-1756 <http://www.cityhs.net/240/Compost>
- Select drought-tolerant plants that grow well in this area.
- Consider using native plants that are already adapted to this plant zone.
- Use practical plant materials – bermuda and zoysia are the two best types grasses for the hot, dry climate of this area; use ground covers, hardscapes or mulches in shaded areas.

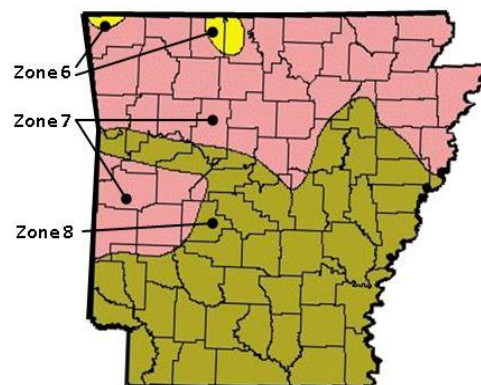
- Try grouping plants together that have similar water needs.
- Use mulch to cover ground around plants to help reduce evaporation and discourage the growth of weeds.
- Prune lightly to shape and direct growth.
- Reduce weeds by hand pulling in the early stages.
- Apply nutrients only when needed and use a slow-release fertilizer.

Resources

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers a number of helpful programs and publications. Contact the Garland County, Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service located at 236 Woodbine in Hot Springs, AR 71901 or call (501)623-6841

<http://www.uaex.edu/counties/garland/>

Local nurseries are knowledgeable about plants that grow well in this area. Consult with your favorite garden center about drought-tolerant plants.



Arkansas Planting Zones

Zone 6 · Small areas in extreme north Arkansas along the Missouri border where low temperatures range from 0 to -10 degrees F.

Zone 7 · Most of Arkansas north of the Arkansas River and part of west Arkansas with winter temperatures as low as 0 to 10 degrees F.

Zone 8 · Most of central and south Arkansas - winter low temperatures can drop to 10 to 20 degrees F.

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service suggests the following drought tolerant plants:

Turf Grasses

Bermuda Grass

Zoysia Grass

Groundcovers

Asian Jasmine

Mondograss

Boston Ivy

Dwarf Nandina

Carolina Jassamine

Sedums

Creeping Thyme

Showy Evening Primrose

Junipers

Youpons

Liriope

Annual Flowers

Cleome

Lantana

Cosmos

Marigolds

Globe Amaranth

Moss Rose

Gloriosa Daisy

Periwinkle

Purslane

Snapdragon

Trees

Arborvitae

Redbud

Arizona Cypress

Red Maple

Vitex

Russian Olive

Crape Myrtle

Short Leaf Pine

Ginkgo

Shumard Oak

Golden Raintree

Smoketree

Hawthorne

Smooth Sumac

Honey Locust

Southern Red Oak

Pin Oak

Oak Species

Chinese Fringe Tree

Elm Species

Vines

American Bittersweet

Morning Glory

Cypress Vine

Silver Lace

Hyacinth Bean

Carolina Jasmine

Trumpet Honeysuckle

Wildflowers

Bee Balm

Joe Pye Weed

Bird Food Violet

Liatris

Black Eyed Susan

Ox-Eye Daisy

Butterfly Weed

Purple Coneflower

Coreopsis

Queen Anne's Lace

Evening Primrose

Sundrop

False Indigo

Verbena

Gaillardia

Yarrow

Hardy Ageratum

Ornamental Grasses

Bluestem Grass

Fountain Grass

Gul Muhly Grass

Love Grass

Pampas Grass

Perennials

Artemesia

Baby's Breath

Bearded Iris

Candytuft

Daffodils

Daylilies

Dianthus

Four O'Clocks

Gaura

German Statice

Shrubs

Arborvitae

Barberry

Beauty Berry

Beauty Bush

Blue Rug Juniper

Burford Holly

Chinese Juniper

Crimson Pygmy

Barberry

Crape Myrtle

Eleagnus

Flowering Quince

Forsythia

Santolina

Groundsel

Holly Species

Herbs

Artemesia

Bee Balm

Cone Flowers

Dill

Fennel

Garlic

Hyssop

Lavender

Oregano

Ox-Eye Daisy

Rosemary

Other Notes

💧 **The Arkansas Plumbing code requires that you have your in-ground sprinkler system backflow device inspected annually by a licensed inspector. Do it in early spring when you are ready to start using your sprinkler system.**

💧 **You can avoid paying for water you aren't using during winter months by having your sprinkler meter suspended during winter months.**

Call Customer Service - 501.321.6880