

Enjoy

Less Maintenance—Once established, a landscape created using these recommended principles will allow you to spend less time and money for maintenance.



Provided to you with compliments

Would you like to be a Master Gardener?

Our program is designed to increase the availability of horticultural information and promote horticultural projects throughout Grayson County. These goals are implemented through the training and volunteer efforts of the group.

Grayson County Master Gardeners group is affiliated with the Texas Master Gardeners Association and the Texas AgriLife Extension within Texas A&M University system.

Classes are usually held in the spring. Please contact the office for an application packet.

Contact info:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Grayson County Courthouse
100 W. Houston St.
Sherman, TX 75090
903-813-4204

www.graysoncountymastergardeners.net

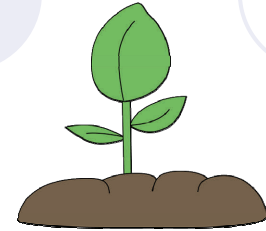
Resources:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension website, EarthKind website & Texas Master Gardener Handbook (<http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu>)

Images:

© Laura Strickland/MyCuteGraphics.com

A Guide to Easy Care Landscaping



- Enhance Beauty
- Save Money
- Spend Less Time on Maintenance



Grayson County
Master Gardeners

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Ready... Soil

Know your soil:

- Texture – Plant roots must be able to spread but how much clay, silt and sand are in your soil? Learn soil health at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/> Navigate to “Popular Topics,” “Soil.”
- Fertility – Is your soil acidic or alkaline? Testing your soil for available nutrients gives guidance on landscape design. Go to soiltesting.tamu.edu for information on soil sample submissions.

Improve your soil:

- You may need to increase depth of soil and add expanded shale, vermiculite, perlite, compost, or grow a cover crop. <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/files/2010/10/soilimprovement.pdf>

Maintain your soil:

- Mulch—Add 2-3 inch layer of mulch on top of a planting bed to keep in moisture and control weeds. <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/files/2010/10/mulch.pdf>
- Fertilize Wisely—Use organic or inorganic fertilizer. Too much can be as bad as too little. When mulch is used, you may not need as much fertilizer. <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/files/2010/10/fertilizers.pdf>



Set... Water

Wise Water Use:

Water is essential to the health of landscape plants. During summer months, as much as 60 percent of average household water use is for landscape maintenance. Irrigation requirements can be cut by 10 to 30 percent using effective watering methods.

Methods to consider:

- Sprinkler System— A permanent underground system can be adjusted for different water needs and to cover large areas. <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/files/2010/10/audit.pdf>
- Low Volume Drip Irrigation— This type of irrigation applies water only where needed by the plant. Additionally, water is used more efficiently. <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/files/2010/10/lowvolume.pdf>
- Rain Barrel/Cistern Water Collection— A wide variety of catchment systems are available and provide high-quality water for landscape use. <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/files/2010/10/rainwater.pdf>
- Rain Gardens—This water management design reduces stormwater runoff. <http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu>



Grow... Plants

Smart Plant Choices:

Selecting the right plant for your unique landscape design will increase value, decrease water and fertilizer use, result in fewer pest and disease problems and require less maintenance. Local landscape designers, nurserymen, county Extension agents and your local Master Gardeners can help identify trees, shrubs and flowers that are well adapted to our growing conditions.

- Xeriscaping—This method of landscaping incorporates using plants that will conserve water and protect the environment. Areas can be lush and green—not just limited to cactus. <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/xeriscape/xeriscape.html>
- Native plants— Using plants that are indigenous to an area’s soil and weather conditions result in natural beauty without having to expend many hours of yard work to maintain. Explore Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center. www.wildflower.org
- Texas Superstars & EarthKind—This list includes plants that have been tested for our harsh Texas climate. During field trials, these plants received minimal soil prep and watering, and no application of pesticides. <http://texassuperstar.com> <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/plant-selector/>