



Campus Arboretum

Exercise Your Green Thumb!



The University of Arizona campus landscapes have modeled innovations in desert horticulture from the beginning. Faculty, like [Warren Jones](#), were world renowned and locally beloved for developing and promoting responsible landscape practices for desert cities. He and others tested and introduced durable new species and showcased the native diversity of the Sonoran Desert creating diverse and inspiring xeriscapes on campus and throughout the desert southwest. The legacy of those pioneers is now carried on by the Campus Arboretum.

Among the innovations of these pioneers, was the practice of xeriscaping - a system of landscaping originating in Denver, Colorado which was promoted successfully on the UA campus and in the Tucson community soon thereafter. While some associate "xeriscapes" with sparsely planted cactus gardens dominated by gravel mulch, the term [xeriscape](#) actually defines a process for building landscapes with conscious consideration and respect for the environment. Xeriscapes promote a diverse array of plants which are custom matched to site conditions and anticipated uses to yield efficient and resilient landscapes that need very little and offer much! With xeriscape principles in mind, desert landscapes can be incredibly diverse - strategically

integrating zones of lush, flowery, colorful, shady, prickly, architectural, open or serene planting areas that grow sustainably in balance with the site.



Learn more about xeriscaping and other sustainable landscape principles and practices using the arboretum's new learning resources portal. Here you will find science-based guidance relevant for general landscape management to more specific guidance relating to arboriculture and urban forestry. Knowledge is power. Consider this tool as a big green thumbs up from us to exercise that muscle!

Access the New Learning Resources Portal Here!

<https://arboretum.arizona.edu/mission-driven-projects/outreach/outreach-learning-resources/science-based-guidance>



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Promote stewardship and conservation of urban trees in Arizona.

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