

step 2

H₂O⁺VERHAUL

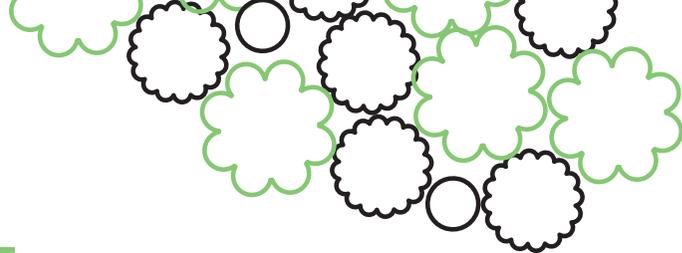
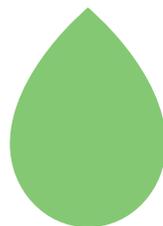


Plants &
Alternative Turf

Selecting Water-Wise Plants

You don't have to sacrifice beauty to save water. There are plenty of gorgeous plant options that thrive in low-water conditions. Use these tips to select the perfect landscape-enhancing plants.

Don't let just any old plant slurp me up. I'm a precious resource you know.



Choose plants that work for you. Look for low water grasses, trees, shrubs, plants and groundcovers that fit your environment. (Consider microclimate, location, sun exposure, desired maintenance, intended use and your budget.)



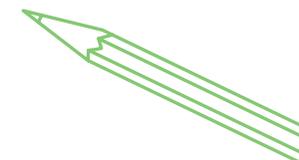
Mix it up. Select plants with varying colors, height and blooming seasons to create visual interest and pops of color throughout the year.

Give room for growth. Before you plant, find out how tall and wide each plant will grow to provide the space they need as they mature.



Create a color scheme. Select plants with complementary colors and use both warm and cool colors to create depth. Repeat the scheme throughout your landscape for a balanced color flow.

Soak up some inspiration. For ideas, check out our "Expert Design Pick" in this kit and take a look at the recommended plants on our Plant Suggestion list at ThorntonWater.com/H2Overhaul.com.



Visit PlantSelect.org, a local resource for plant selections, landscaping designs and helpful information. Here are some ways to explore:

- 1 Click **Garden Ideas** (under "Design" in the top navigation) for downloadable landscaping designs.
- 2 Click **Find a Plant** to find the best plants for your landscape.
- 3 Click **Where to Buy** to search for local retailers and garden centers. Call ahead to ask if they have the plants you want.

Water-Wise Meets Budget-Wise



Stick with Perennials

Low-water perennials are a cost-effective choice; adding beauty to your yard year after year. Once established, all they need is natural precipitation with a little supplemental water during hot and dry parts of the season.

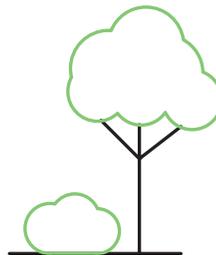
Investing In Expensive Trees & Shrubs?

Before taking the plunge:

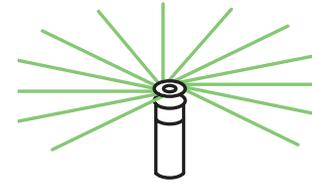
Set yourself up for success with high-quality soil. (See "Step 4: Soil Prep & Planting" in your H₂Overhaul Kit.)

Plant in areas with suitable amounts of heat and limited wind exposure.

Consider how big each tree or shrub will grow to be (tall and wide), allowing ample room for them to mature.



I love me a nice, tight budget.



Hydrozone for Maximum Savings

Group plants together according to how much water and sun exposure they need. This saves water and helps plants flourish.

Put high-water plants in easily accessible areas or in low-lying drainage areas, near downspouts or in the shade of other plants to utilize runoff and natural shade.

In areas that are harder to reach or aren't easily accessible, plant low-water plants that require less frequent watering.

Gardens don't belong in a box. Free the plants!



Get A Water-Wise Garden In A Box

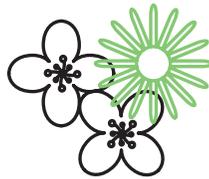
Resource Central offers professionally designed gardens with a curated selection of beautiful perennial Xeric (low-water) plants to replace turf, reduce watering and generally promote conservation practices for landscapes.

Order yours at ResourceCentral.org/gardens.

Expert Design Pick

Why We Love It

Filled with color and texture, this design features shrubs and easy-care perennials that look gorgeous year-round plus an array of flowers that bloom from spring to fall.



It attracts bees with fragrant flowers and foliage as well as sun-loving, drought-tolerant and deer resistant plants that grow in well-drained soil (which needs little to no amendment).

It's versatile enough to be used as a perimeter planting (planted down the sides of a yard) or it can be widened for use in a broader bed by placing the largest plants in the center and mirroring the design on the other side.

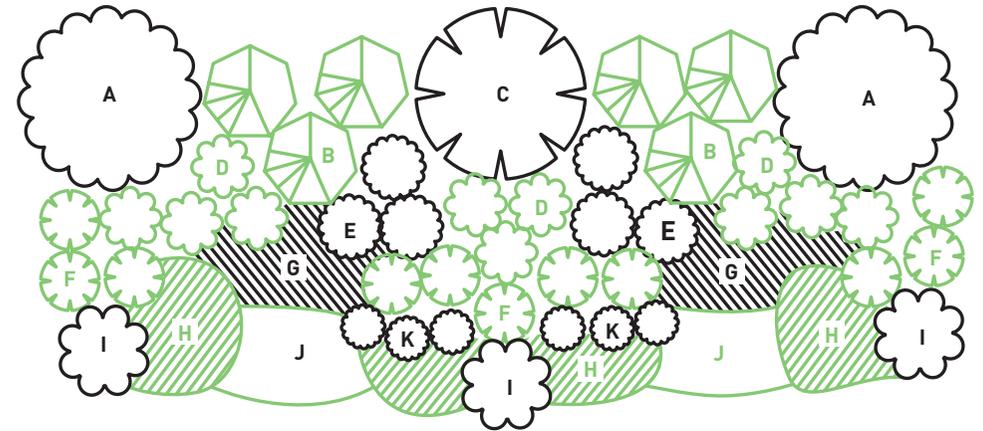
Find more sample designs at [PlantSelect.org/design/downloadable-designs/](https://www.plantselect.org/design/downloadable-designs/)

Flurf your turf!
Yes, that's totally
a word. It means
"to get rid of,
to replace."



Water-Wise Cottage

Designer: Lauren Springer Ogden



Plant List

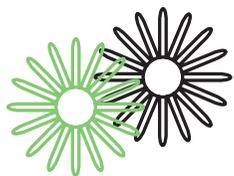
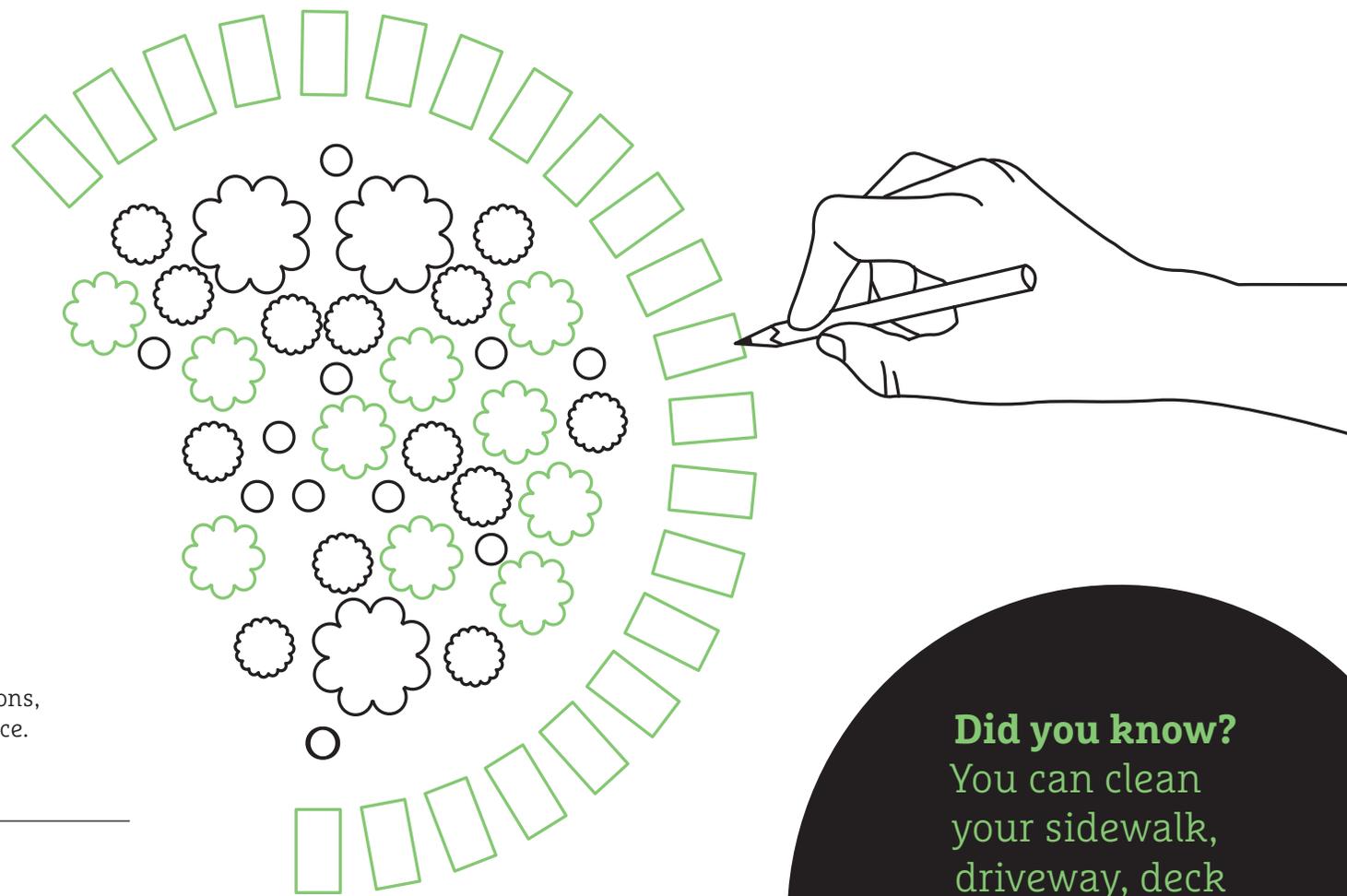
- A** Cheyenne® Mock Orange *or* Blue Velvet® Honeysuckle (2)
- B** Sonoran Sunset® Hyssop *or* Blue Blazes Hyssop (6)
- C** Redleaf Rose *or* Silver Fountain Butterfly Bush (1)
- D** Silver Sage *or* Giant Lamb's Ears (11)
- E** Dalmatian Daisy *or* Anthea Yarrow (6)
- F** Shadow Mountain® Penstemon *or* Red Rocks® Penstemon (11)
- G** Little Trudy® Catmint (14) *or* Select Blue Catmint (10)
- H** Platinum® Sage *or*ilverton® Bluemat Penstemon (20)
- I** Winecups (3) *or* Table Mountain® Ice Plant (15)
- J** 'Shimmer' evening primrose (10) *or* Silver Blade® Evening Primrose (6)
- K** Purple Mountain® Sun Daisy *or* Compact English Lavender (6)

Selecting Turf Alternatives

It takes a lot of water (and work) to keep a lawn lush and green. Plot your practical turf plan for a smarter, low-maintenance yard.

Design your landscape and determine your best turf options based on sun exposure, irrigation, intended use, soil or water challenges, maintenance and your budget.

Explore this guide to find a variety of low-water turf options, ground covers and hardscapes that can enhance your space.



Low traffic, hard to maintain areas:

Groundcovers, drought-resistant flower gardens, ornamental shrubs and shade trees are perfect for areas that have been a real pain in the grass (near foundations, along medians or on steep slopes).



High traffic areas: Low-water turf is ideal for areas designed to accommodate children's play, sports activities, entertaining and pets.

Did you know?

You can clean your sidewalk, driveway, deck and other surfaces with a broom or blower to save water every time.



Comparison Of Grasses



Did you know?
There are more than 12,000 grass species.

	Tall Fescue	Buffalograss	Kentucky Bluegrass	Dog Tuff Grass
Color	Light to dark green	Light green to blue green	Light to dark green	Bright green color
Length of Green Season	Long: <i>March - December</i>	Short: <i>May - September</i>	Long: <i>March - December</i>	Medium: <i>early June - October</i>
Mowing Requirement	More frequent/grows fast	Infrequent/none	Less frequent	Does not require mowing
Fertilizer Requirement	Lower	Very low	Higher	Very low
Iron Chlorosis	Infrequent	Infrequent	More frequent	Infrequent to none
Disease Problems	Infrequent	Almost none	Can be disease prone	Infrequent
Insect Problems	Almost none	Almost none	Occasional/more common	Almost none
Traffic Tolerance	Excellent	Fair	Good	Excellent
Traffic Recuperation	Poor to fair	Poor to fair	Good to excellent	Good to excellent
Heat/Cold Tolerance	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Shade Tolerance	Good to excellent	Poor to fair	Fair	Poor
Irrigation	20-22" annually.	8-15" annually.	15-26" annually. Proper management can reduce water consumption.	Once established, water every 10-14 days. Apply ½-1" water.
Maintenance	Frequent spring mowing. Requires irrigation to survive – does not go dormant well.	Infrequent mowing, irrigation and fertilization.	Amend soil to 6" before planting. Mow between 2-3". Use mulching blade. Aerate once a year. Use organic fertilizer.	Avoid using weed killers if possible. If you mow, start in early July. Mow every 5-7 days. Use organic fertilizer.

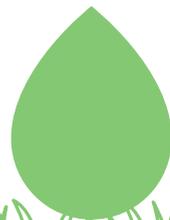
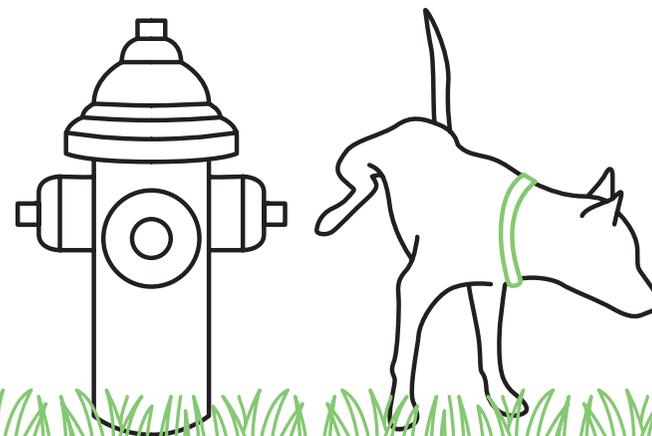
Source:
http://gardencentersofcolorado.org/pdfs/care_sheets/Selecting_the_Right_Grass.pdf

Did you know?
Replacing thirsty grass with turf alternatives can save on average more than 30,000 gallons of water while also adding functional beauty to your yard.

Dog Tuff Grass

This African grass holds up well to wear and tear. It is a sterile hybrid so it can't reseed and become an invasive weed (although it could get into your neighbor's yard via runners!)

Find out more at [PlantSelect.org](https://www.plantselect.org)



Additional Turf Alternatives

In addition to low-water turf options, there are a variety of water-wise groundcovers and hardscapes that can enhance your space.

Give Ground Covers A Go

Low-growing ground covers can be used as an alternative to turf in areas with low foot traffic. Usually chosen for texture, density and how well they spread and choke out weeds, ground covers enhance the soil by acting as a mulch.

During the first year, any new ground cover will require weeding and mulching, but once established, little care is needed.

Check out a diverse list of gorgeous ground cover options at PlantSelect.org



Control groundcovers or those rascals will take over your yard. Create a barrier with low bricks, wood or any lawn edging placed a few inches into the soil.

Say Yes To No-Water Hardscapes

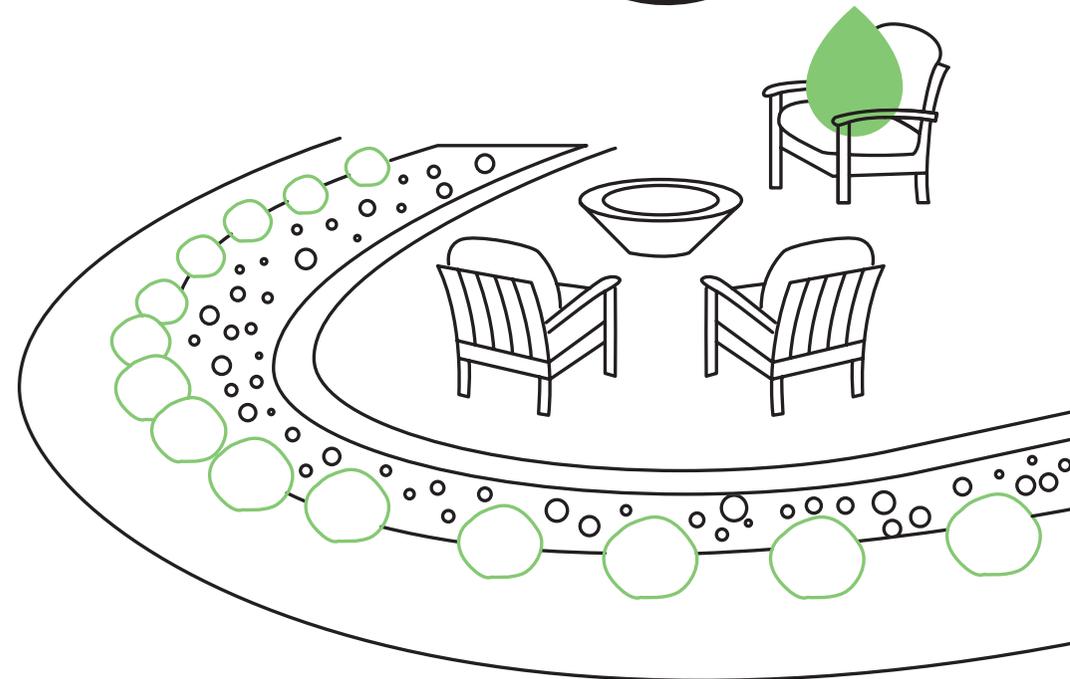
Great for high-traffic areas, hardscapes are the nonliving elements within a landscape. Hardscapes include patios, decks, fences, boulders, pathways and lighting. They save a lot of water, have multi-uses and look fantastic.

Expert Tip:

Consider adding pervious pathways and surfaces to your space, which let water absorb into the ground.



Life is easy when scapes are hard.



Additional Resources

Visit **ThorntonWater.com/H2Overhaul** for additional ideas to help you plan.

You'll find links to resources such as lists of water-wise plants, trees and low-water grasses as well as searchable sites to customize your plant or turf selection and images of mature water-wise plants.



Now you have a knack for picking perennials!



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ThorntonWater.com/H2Overhaul

