



TEXAS SMARTSCAPE !

GOT DROUGHT? SMARTSCAPE TIPS!

Did You Know?

40% of residential water use goes towards watering the lawn.

Infrequent, but deep, watering is best for your grass. Better yet, replace that sod with native plants that require less water!



www.txsmartscape.com is an excellent resource for learning ways to use native plants and techniques when landscaping.

A powerful search database, design tools, as well as care and maintenance information are all available at no cost.

What is Texas SmartScape? It is an interactive tool that assists you in landscaping with native and adapted plants. This guide can help you conserve water, protect the environment and have a beautiful yard all year!

Your yard can affect our water quantity and quality.

The plant database in Texas SmartScape showcases native and adapted plants specific to the North Texas climate. Typically, these plants use up to 80% less water and can tolerate the hot Texas weather, saving you money on your water bill while conserving our water supply!

Another tip to saving money is to inspect your sprinkler system to ensure that it is properly timed and aimed in the right direction. Sidewalks and streets do not need to be watered! Inspecting your sprinkler system will also ensure that you are not over or under watering your plants. Use soaker hoses when possible; they use less water than the sprinklers.



Texas SmartScape plants require less fertilizer and pesticides. Fertilizer and pesticides are usually applied in the spring and fall when we get the most rainfall. A high percentage never reaches the intended plants; instead much of the applied fertilizer and pesticides gets flushed with storm water runoff, enters our storm drain system and ends up in our creeks. Adding fertilizers and pesticides to our creeks can make them unsuitable for recreation and harm the wildlife.

Use techniques such as mulching and composting. These can help reduce your water dependence while increasing your recycling!



Water every 5 to 7 days in the summer and every 15 to 20 days in the winter.

Use drip irrigation when watering your plants—it delivers up to 95% of the water to your plant.



Deep, infrequent watering helps plants establish deep roots and requires less water.

You can lose up to 50% of your irrigation when watering, so be sure to water between 8pm and 10am.

Install a rain sensor to ensure you are watering only when necessary. Do not water when it's raining.



Install a timer on your sprinkler system. This can help ensure that you are watering the proper amount.



Leave grass clippings on the lawn to help retain moisture.

Native and adapted plants use up to 80% less water and can tolerate the heat of Texas summers.



SPRING CLEANING!



Spring is a great time of year to clean out garages, sheds and homes! Make sure to properly dispose of all old or unused paint, motor oil, fertilizer or cell phones. Local resources are available that will take your used household chemicals and electronic devices.

Carrollton residents can dispose of their chemicals free of charge at the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center. Be sure to bring your drivers license and a copy of your water bill as proof of residency. Some items that are accepted include:

- Home cleaning products and chemicals
- Paint and home repair products
- Lawn and garden chemicals
- Aerosol sprays
- Pool Chemicals
- Automotive fluids and oil filters
- Batteries, computers and cell phones

Check out the Dallas County Home

Chemical Collection Center's website (right) for more information on the items that are accepted and items that will not be accepted. You can also access the website at www.cityofcarrollton.com. Under the "Residents" section click on "Trash and Recycling".

Not a Carrollton resident? You can check whether your city is a member on the collection center's website.

Want to reduce the amount of cleaning chemicals in your home? There are online resources available displaying cleaning solutions that you can make at home using common household chemicals like baking soda, vinegar and ammonia. Use these solutions to clean walls, windows, floors, etc. They are not only friendlier to the environment, but to your wallet as well.

Be careful where you dispose of those old cleaning products, motor oils, paints or fertilizers. Even if the label says that the product is "environmentally friendly" or "environmentally safe" it does not mean you can dispose of them in the street, alley or creek!

**DALLAS COUNTY HOME
CHEMICAL COLLECTION
CENTER.**

**11234 PLANO PKWY
DALLAS**

972-553-1765

**WWW.DALLASCOUNTY.ORG/
DEPARTMENT/PLANDEV/
HHW_INTRO.HTM**



IT'S ALMOST THAT TIME OF YEAR AND PROPER POOL MAINTENANCE IS KEY!

Taking a dip in your swimming pool on a hot summer day is a great way to cool off. Along with this enjoyment is the responsibility to properly maintain your pool. Did you know that the water in your swimming pool can be a source of pollution and you can get a fine for disposing of it improperly?

The water in your swimming pool can contain high levels of chlorine and other chemicals that can be harmful to aquatic wildlife and their habitat. That is why it is so important to never discharge swimming pool, spa or fountain water into the street, alley or the storm water system. Discharges into the storm water system do not get treated before going to our surface waters!

Swimming pool water that contains chlorine or other chemicals must be discharged to the sanitary sewer system. Water in this system gets treated. The plumbing in our home is already connected to the sanitary sewer system. Use a long hose and drain the water into the closest sink or bathtub. Make sure you empty the pool — this helps prevent mosquito breeding!

