



## Tips

- Turning off the water to your lawn is not a good way to kill the grass. Bermuda lawns can have very deep root systems, which can continue to live for years on rain alone.
- Covering the grass with black plastic and granite is not recommended as a method to kill or control the grass. The plastic eventually breaks down and tears, leaving the landscape unsightly and difficult to clean up.
- Do not use a soil sterilizer or complete vegetation killer. These chemicals can travel through the soil and kill desirable plants.
- You may need to use a selective herbicide (one that kills grass only) if grass is growing close to desirable plants.
- Use a water-soluble colorant so you can detect where you have already sprayed. Walk backward while applying herbicide to avoid tracking to unintended areas.
- Before installing your new landscape, dig out two to four inches of dead grass and/or soil next to hardscaped areas (sidewalks, patios, decking, driveways, etc.) to prevent crushed rock or decomposed granite from spilling onto patios or walkways.
- Using the appropriate adaptors, grass sprinkler systems can be easily converted to drip systems.

## For More Information

**City of Avondale**  
Water Conservation Office  
Phone: 623-333-4400  
TTY: 623-333-0010  
[www.avondale.org](http://www.avondale.org)

**City of Chandler**  
Water Conservation Office  
Phone: 480-782-3580  
TTY: 800-367-8939  
[www.chandleraz.gov](http://www.chandleraz.gov)

**Town of Gilbert**  
Water Conservation Office  
Phone: 480-503-6098  
TTY: 480-503-6080  
[www.ci.gilbert.az.us](http://www.ci.gilbert.az.us)

**City of Glendale**  
Water Conservation Office  
Phone: 623-930-3596  
TTY: 623-930-2197  
[www.glendaleaz.com](http://www.glendaleaz.com)

**City of Goodyear**  
Water Management Department  
Phone: 623-932-3010  
TTY: 623-932-6500  
[www.goodyearaz.gov](http://www.goodyearaz.gov)

**City of Mesa**  
Water Conservation Office  
Phone: 480-644-3306  
TTY: 480-644-2778  
[www.cityofmesa.org](http://www.cityofmesa.org)

**City of Peoria**  
Utilities, Water Conservation  
Phone: 623-773-7286  
TTY: 623-773-7221  
[www.peoriaaz.com](http://www.peoriaaz.com)

**City of Phoenix**  
Water Conservation Office  
Phone: 602-261-8367  
TTY: 602-534-1113  
[www.phoenix.gov](http://www.phoenix.gov)

**City of Scottsdale**  
Water Conservation Office  
Phone: 480-312-5650  
TTY: 480-312-5419  
[www.scottsdaleaz.gov](http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov)

**City of Tempe**  
Water Conservation Office  
Phone: 480-350-2668  
TTY: 480-350-8400  
[www.tempe.gov](http://www.tempe.gov)

**Arizona Municipal Water Users Association**  
Phone: 602-248-8482  
[www.amwua.org](http://www.amwua.org)

Alternative formats available by contacting the cities listed.



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## Good Reasons to Take Out Your Grass

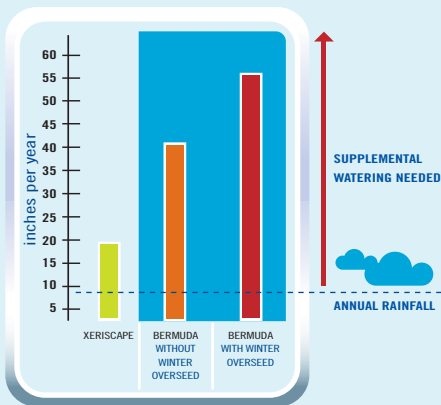


Would you prefer lower water bills and less yard work to worry about? Do you have an old, tired lawn that seems to require more and more effort to maintain? Is the only time you walk on your lawn when you mow it? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to consider making the **switch to water-saving Xeriscape.**

# How Much Water Will You Save?

The average conversion to a **Xeriscape** can **save 50% or more** on your outdoor water use.

A **bermuda or bermuda hybrid** lawn requires more than 55 inches of water per year (with winter overseed) and over 40 inches per year (without winter overseed). The average Xeriscape requires less than 18 inches per year. Compare with our average rainfall of 8 inches.



BEFORE



AFTER

# Before You Start, Have a Good Plan

Creating a plan will help you tailor your landscape to meet your needs, your tastes and your checkbook. It also keeps you from making costly mistakes! Need some help in planning your new landscape? Ask your local water conservation office for free how-to booklets.

## Getting Rid of the Grass

Bermudagrass is an aggressive grass that can be extremely difficult to get rid of, which is one reason it does so well in our desert climate. After months of appearing dead, bermudagrass can spring back to life when water is applied. The most effective way to eradicate it is by the careful use of the proper herbicide.

- **WHAT TO USE:** The most effective herbicides for killing bermudagrass contain the chemical glyphosate. This chemical is sold under many different brand names such as DOOMSDAY™, KLEENUP™, or ROUNDUP™. Glyphosate is not a long-lived or persistent chemical. It is a systemic herbicide that is absorbed through the leaves and travels to the roots and is not effective when applied to the soil.

- **WHEN TO TREAT:** June through September is the best time to get rid of bermudagrass. At this time, the daytime temperatures are above 80 degrees and the grass is growing vigorously, which is necessary for the herbicide to work effectively.

- **HOW TO APPLY:** Before applying herbicide, fertilize and water the grass to make it grow. The herbicide is only effective when the grass is green and actively growing. **Do not scalp or mow the grass at this time.**

- **CAUTION!** Choose a windless day to apply the herbicide. Carefully mix and spray the product by following the directions on the container. Spray the grass and take particular care not to get the spray on any desirable plants. Use cardboard or plastic to shield plants in tight areas. It is best to spray in the early morning hours.

**Wait 24 hours to resume normal watering to prepare for the second application.**

- **BE PATIENT!** Allow 10-14 days for the herbicide to work. It will. It takes up to two weeks for the lawn to turn brown. More than one application of the herbicide is usually needed, so begin the process again by turning the water back on to see what grows back. **Repeat a second application of herbicide on the areas where re-growth appears.**

Two weeks after the second spraying, scalp the lawn with a mower set very low. If the dead grass is very thick, you may need to use a power rake to thin it out. **Take off as much grass as possible. You may need to spot treat any areas where grass returns (once a month).**



## Alternative Methods

Remember bermudagrass is invasive and very persistent. Other methods such as solarizing, vinegar sprays, smothering, digging out, tilling or use of sod cutters may be more difficult and have a lower success rate. Some of these methods may be more effective when used together.