



# Drought Alert:

## *Water Efficient Practices for Saving Your Landscape*

Texas Cooperative Extension  
Texas A&M University System  
College Station, Texas

---

### **All Plants Have a Place in a Water Efficient Landscape**

Every plant in the nursery or garden center truly has a place in a water efficient landscape. Its not which plant you use, but where you put it. Three different plant zones can be incorporated into a water efficient landscape:

Regular Watering Zone

Occasional Watering Zone

Natural Rainfall Zone

Plants in the "Regular Watering Zone" would require watering once every week or more ONCE ESTABLISHED, in the absence of rain.

Plants in the "Occasional Watering Zone" would require watering once every two or three weeks ONCE ESTABLISHED, in the absence of rain.

Plants in the "Natural Rainfall Zone" would require only natural rainfall ONCE ESTABLISHED.

By zoning the plants in the landscape according to their water requirements, you prevent the situation of having to overwater one plant type to meet the need of another.

Every region of Texas has a pallet of plants to choose from which are adapted to the soil, temperature extremes and pest problems of the area. The challenge for the professional and amateur gardener is to categorize the plants based on expected

All Plants Have a Place in a Water Efficient Landscape --- con't

water requirements. By using the categories of natural rainfall, occasional watering and regular watering, most gardeners can place the plants from their region into these water-use zones.

For example, in much of Texas (areas of 30+ inches of rainfall), the following categorization is often used:

Regular Watering Zone: turfgrass and annual flowers

Occasional Watering Zone: perennial flowers and tender woody shrubs and vines

Natural Watering Zone: tough woody shrubs and vines and all trees

All plants do have a place in a water efficient landscape. Visit your nursery or garden center today and get started on creating your own beautiful, water conserving landscape!

- 0 -

Douglas F. Welsh, Ph.D.

Professor and Extension Horticulturist