



GRASS-to-XERISCAPE Landscape Incentive Application



STEP 1 – READ PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, THEN FILL OUT THE APPLICATION BELOW.

Name/Property Owner

Preferred Phone

Alternate Phone

Email

Property Address

Mailing Address (if different from above)

Access Code for Gated Community

Front Yard

Back Yard

Rental Property

Square Feet of Grass You Plan to Remove

Check All That Apply

SHORT SURVEY

What prompted you to begin this landscape project? (Check all that apply) Saving water Prefer desert look

Saving money Reduced maintenance Create shade Other _____

How did you learn about this incentive? _____

What do you plan to do differently after your landscape conversion? (Check all that apply)

Buy a new controller Update controller program more frequently Replace/update irrigation system

Have you already chosen the plants you will install? Yes No (If adding trees, see Trees are Cool application on proceeding pages.)

I have read and agree to comply with all incentive program requirements (attached) and understand that starting without City of Mesa approval will make my conversion ineligible.

Signature of Applicant (property owner)

Date

STEP 2 – SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION WITH ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION.

MAIL APPLICATION TO: City of Mesa Environmental & Sustainability Programs - 9950
PO Box 1466
Mesa, AZ 85211-1466

Or EMAIL a scanned copy to becky.zusy@mesaaz.gov

If you are only doing a portion of the front or back yards, please indicate on the back of this application or where you will be removing the grass.

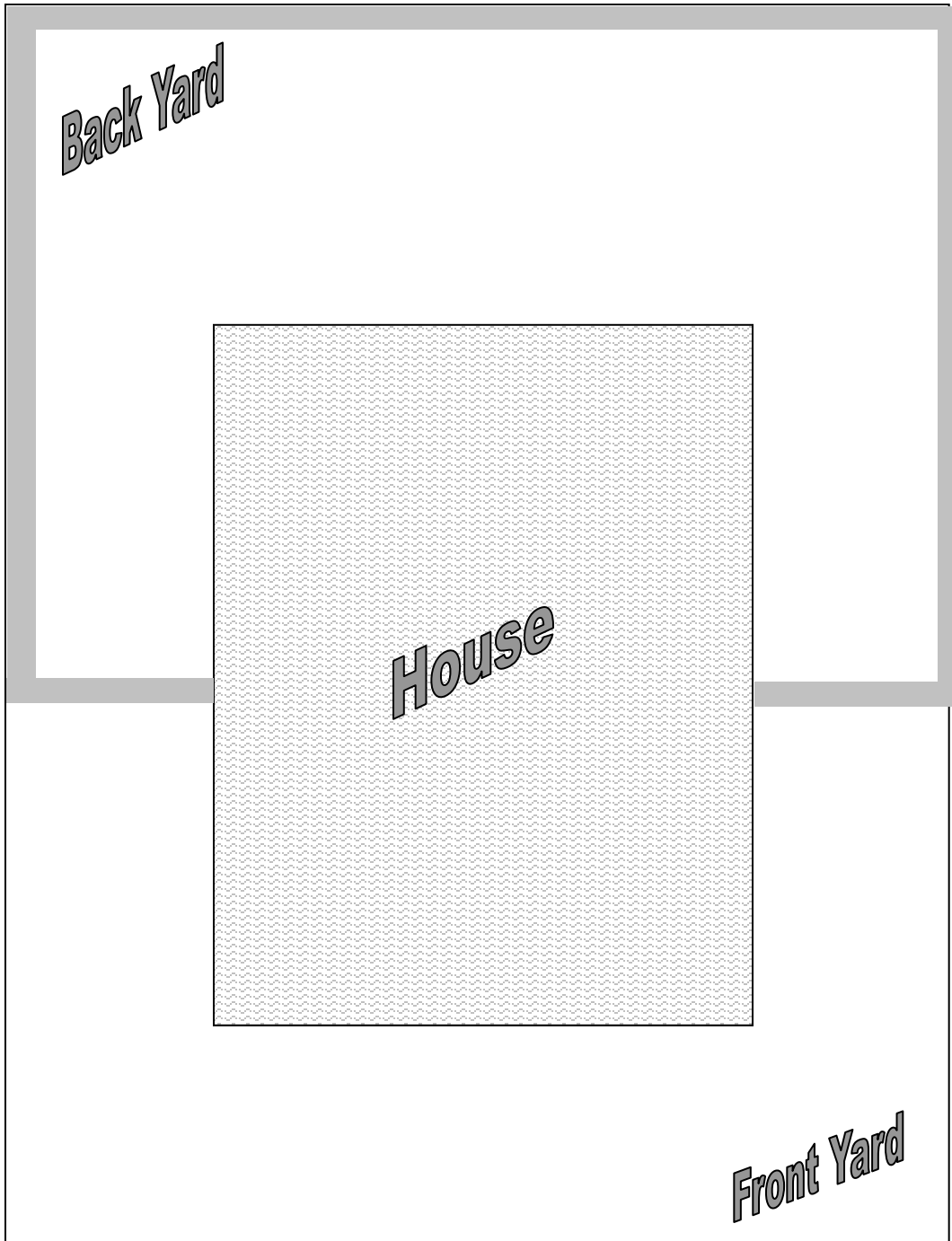


STEP 3 – IF YOU ARE ADDING A TREE OR TWO, CONSIDER APPLYING FOR TREES ARE COOL – YOU COULD GET AN EXTRA \$75! SEE APPLICATION FOR DETAILS.

STEP 4 – WAIT TO RECEIVE A NOTICE TO PROCEED (VIA DOORHANGER, MAIL, OR EMAIL) FROM THE CITY OF MESA BEFORE BEGINNING YOUR CONVERSION (ALLOW THREE WEEKS FOR US TO RESPOND TO YOUR APPLICATION). ANY PHOTOS YOU SUBMIT WITH YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF INSPECTION.

STEP 5 – CONTACT US ONCE YOU COMPLETE YOUR LANDSCAPE CONVERSION PROJECT (YOU WILL HAVE SIX MONTHS FROM YOUR APPROVED-TO-PROCEED DATE). PROVIDE CITY WITH W9 FORM TO GET PAYMENT PROCESSED.

Provide a rough sketch indicating location of grass to be removed.
(or include photos)



AREA FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Account/Premise Number

Turf Measure Sq. Ft.

Total Incentive Amount

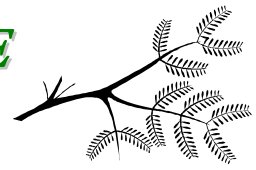
Preliminary Inspection _____
Date Initial

Final Inspection _____
Date Initial

of Trees (are Cool) _____

Processed for Payment _____
Date Initial

Comments: _____



mesa·az Landscape Incentive Program

Did you know that more than half of the water used by homeowners can be spent on outdoor watering?

If you currently have a landscape consisting of grass, converting it into an attractive low-water using landscape is one of the best ways to conserve water and energy, save money on your water bill, and create a landscape that is much easier to maintain. To assist our customers with this water-saving alternative, the City of Mesa is offering a *Grass-to-Xeriscape* incentive.

ABOUT THE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The purpose of the *Grass-to-Xeriscape* program is to help our single-family residential customers reduce their landscape water use by half or more by replacing their water-thirsty lawns with landscape plants appropriate to our Sonoran Desert climate. When you remove 500 square feet or more of established grass and replace it with a water-thrifty landscape, you may receive a \$500 incentive from the City of Mesa.

WHAT DOES XERISCAPE MEAN?

Xeriscape (zeer-a-scape) is a term that defines a creative approach to landscaping that includes the use of well-adapted plants, efficient irrigation, careful design, and proper maintenance. When used together, these principles produce superior landscapes that save both water and energy. *Xeriscape* also creates or replaces habitat needed by wildlife, and helps to create shade for people, our homes, and our communities.

REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY TO QUALIFY

Read these guidelines prior to filling out your application.

1. The applicant must be the current owner of a single-family home and a City of Mesa water customer.
2. **Contact us before you start!** The incentive is not retroactive prior to the approval date, and is not applicable to conversion projects that take place without the approval of the City of Mesa.
3. Grass must be relatively healthy. Under this program 'healthy' shall be defined as routinely irrigated and manicured with an average coverage of 70 percent. Grass area must be a minimum of 500 square feet.
4. The converted area must be replaced with low-water using plants that, when fully mature, will cover at least 50 percent of the area (grass cannot be replaced with just artificial turf or rock). The trunk or stem of the low-water use plants must be in the converted area to count. Existing high-water use trees in the area to be converted may count towards this coverage requirement at a reduced amount. See next page for details.
5. No fountains exist on the property unless they are a cascading, or non-spray design.
6. No body of water exists on the property that has a surface area greater than 1,000 square feet.
7. Spray irrigation and non-pervious materials such as black plastic sheeting are not permitted in the converted area. A concrete surface cannot take up more than 25 percent of the converted area.
8. The new landscape must be covered with a minimum of a 2" deep layer of organic or inorganic mulch (such as granite or rock). Other materials may qualify. No black plastic sheeting underlay is allowed.
9. The grass removal or installation of the *Xeriscape* must not conflict with other City of Mesa landscaping requirements as prescribed by existing policies, procedures, or ordinances.
10. Homeowners who are members of a Homeowner's Association (HOA) must ensure that the new landscape complies with HOA Covenants, Codes & Restrictions (CC&Rs).
11. Only one incentive is allowed per property.
12. A W9 form is required to receive payment once final approval is given. See irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf.
13. The following would **not be eligible**:
 - a. New residential homes built within the past year of the application date.
 - b. Any properties that are not single-family residential, including duplexes, triplexes, and common areas owned by HOAs.
 - c. Any grass areas that are watered by wells or flood irrigation water.
 - d. Completed projects.
 - e. Artificial turf-only projects.



INSPECTIONS AND DEADLINES FOR APPLICANTS

The property will be inspected and a photograph taken before the conversion/installation takes place. The City will provide applicant with a notice to proceed after the initial inspection. No work should be done before this notice to proceed is given. The applicant then has a six-month period to complete the conversion. Upon completion, the property will be re-inspected to ensure compliance with the *Grass-to-Xeriscape* requirements. Customers will be required to provide the City with a W9 form for tax purposes. This form requires submitting your social security number or tax identification number. If the conversion fails inspection, the applicant will be allowed 60 days or the remaining six-month period, whichever is greater, to fully comply with the program requirements. The *Grass-to-Xeriscape* incentive program will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Continuation of the program is subject to the availability of funds. Program requirements are subject to change.

Plant Coverage Requirements

You must have 50% coverage by living low-water use plants in the ground in order to qualify for this incentive. Information on how to calculate that is below. However – if you already have plants in the area where the grass is at time of initial application, they can contribute to your coverage requirement. Existing low-water use plants with a trunk in the current grass area count with their full coverage.

Because of the overall benefits of trees, we allow existing high-water use trees to count for partial coverage if they are fully located in the current grass area and on their own irrigation line. New plantings of high-water use plants **do not count** towards coverage. Coverage credit for existing high-water use trees located in current grass area: Citrus Trees - 75 sq ft, Ash and Ficus Trees – 100 sq ft.

How to Determine Proper Plant Coverage

As noted in the requirements, the converted area must be replaced with low-water using plants that, when fully mature, will cover at least 50 percent of the area (grass cannot be replaced with just rock). The chart below will help to determine the minimum number of new plants needed for the converted area. Planting additional trees and shrubs is encouraged. Preservation of existing trees and shrubs is encouraged and may qualify as part of plant replacement requirements if they are currently located in the converted area.

The charts contain the same plants listed in our booklet, [Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert](#), and have been categorized by approximate square feet of coverage at maturity. Once you have determined the square feet of grass you are removing, cut that in half, then select the number and type of plants that add up to the amount you need. For example, if you remove 600 sq. ft. of grass, cut that amount in half (600 sq. ft.+2=300 sq. ft.). Find the combination of plants you need that will provide 300 sq. ft. of coverage. Two medium trees (150 sq. ft.+150 sq. ft.=300 sq. ft.), or possibly one large tree and one large shrub (225 sq. ft.+75 sq. ft.=300 sq. ft.), etc.

This is not an all-inclusive list and many more plants, such as cacti, succulents, vines, and desert perennials would qualify. The complete list is based on a comprehensive low-water using plant list compiled by the Arizona Department of Water Resources. For a copy, visit http://infoshare.azwater.gov/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-10087/LWU_Plants_ForWebRedesign.pdf.

Coverage Provided by Plants at Maturity – Some Examples (Not a Complete List of All Eligible Plants)

Small Shrubs &

Groundcovers (10 sq ft)

- **Asclepias subulata* – Desert Milkweed
- Cephalophyllum cultivar* – Red Spike Ice Plant
- Chrysactinia Mexicana* - Damianita
- **Convolvulus cneorum* - Bush Morning Glory
- Ruellia brittoniana* - Katie Ruellia

Medium Shrubs &

Groundcovers (30 sq ft)

- **Anisacanthus quadrifidus* - Flame
- Honeysuckle**
- Bougainvillea 'Torch Glow'* - Bougainvillea
- Torch**
- **Caesalpinia gilliesii* - Yel. Bird of Paradise
- **Caesalpinia pulcherrima* - Red Bird of Paradise
- **Calliandra species* - Fairy Dusters
- **Eremophila species* - Eremophila (all)
- Gossypium harknessii* - San Marcos Hibiscus
- **Hamelia patens* - Firecracker Bush
- **Lantana hybrid* - Lantanas (all)
- Leucophyllum species* - Texas Sage (all)
- Nerium oleander* – Oleander
- Rosmarinus officinalis* – Rosemary
- **Ruellia peninsularis* - Baja Ruellia
- Senna artemisioides* - Senna/Cassia (all)

Large Shrubs &

Groundcovers (75 sq ft)

- Bougainvillea spectabilis* – Bougainvillea
- **Caesalpinia mexicana* – Mexican Bird of Paradise
- Paradise**
- Simmondsia chinensis* - Jojoba
- Sophora secundiflora* – Texas Mountain Laurel
- **Tecoma species* – Yellow/Orange Bells
- **Tecomaria capensis* – Cape Honeysuckle
- Wedelia trilobata* – Yellow Dot

Small Trees (75 sq ft)

- Acacia craspedocarpa* - Leather-Leaf Acacia
- Acacia willardiana* – Palo Blanco
- Bauhinia lunarioides* – Anacacho Orchid Tree
- Brahea armata* – Mexican Blue Palm
- Chamaerops humilis* - Mediterranean Fan Palm
- **Punica granatum* – Pomegranate

Medium Trees (150 sq ft)

- Acacia berlandieri* - Guajillo
- Caesalpinia cacalaco* - Cascalote
- Cercidium microphyllum* – Foothill Palo Verde
- Eucalyptus erythrocorys* - Red-Cap Gum
- Lysiloma microphylla* - Feather Bush
- Pithecellobium flexicaule* - Texas Ebony

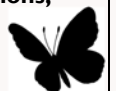
Large Trees (225 sq ft)

- Acacia farnesiana* – Sweet Acacia
- **Cercidium floridum* – Blue Palo Verde
- Cercidium hybrid* – Hybrid Palo Verde
- Cercidium praecox* – Palo Brea
- **Chilopsis linearis* – Desert Willow
- Olneya tesota* – Ironwood
- Pistacia chinensis* – Chinese Pistache
- Pistacia lentiscus* – Mastic Tree
- **Prosopis species* – Mesquite (all)
- Quercus virginiana* – Live Oak
- Ulmus parvifolia* – Evergreen Elm
- Vitex agnus-castus* - Chaste Tree

***Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds or other pollinators**

To get a copy of the booklet *Landscape Plants for the AZ Desert*: conservation.info@mesaz.gov OR view online at amwua.org/plants

Interested in helping monarchs and pollinators? Check out millionpollinatorgardens.org; monarchwatch.org/waystations; swmonarchs.org





Trees are Cool Incentive for Current Applicants of Grass-to-Xeriscape Incentive



STEP A – READ PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, THEN FILL OUT THE APPLICATION BELOW.

Name/Property Owner _____

	Check front or back yard	Check whichever location applies
Location of new tree #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Front Yard <input type="checkbox"/> Back Yard	<input type="checkbox"/> In grass conversion area <input type="checkbox"/> Outside grass conversion area
Location of new tree #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Front Yard <input type="checkbox"/> Back Yard	<input type="checkbox"/> In grass conversion area <input type="checkbox"/> Outside grass conversion area

QUICK QUESTIONS

Why do you want to install a tree? (Check all that apply) Save energy Provide privacy Create shade

Enhance appearance of property Attract wildlife Other _____

Who will install the tree? Homeowner Family member Landscaper/Nursery Certified Arborist Other

Did you watch the [video on proper tree installation](#)? Yes No

Have you chosen the tree(s) to install? Yes No – check out [amwua.org/plants](#) for ideas

If yes, please list: _____

I have read and agree to comply with all incentive program requirements (attached) and the guidelines on proper planting and maintenance of trees, including installation, watering, and pruning. Planting without City of Mesa approval will make my application ineligible. Please share these guidelines with your installer.

Signature of Applicant (property owner)

Date

STEP B – SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION ALONG WITH YOUR GRASS-TO-XERISCAPE LANDSCAPE APPLICATION.

STEP C – WAIT TO RECEIVE A NOTICE TO PROCEED FROM THE CITY OF MESA BEFORE PLANTING YOUR TREE (AND BEGINNING YOUR CONVERSION).

STEP D – CONTACT US ONCE YOU COMPLETE YOUR LANDSCAPE CONVERSION PROJECT, INCLUDING TREE PLANTING. (YOU WILL HAVE SIX MONTHS FROM YOUR APPROVED-TO-PROCEED DATE). PROVIDE CITY WITH W9 FORM TO GET PAYMENT PROCESSED.



INSPECTIONS AND DEADLINES FOR APPLICANTS

The property will be inspected and a photograph taken before the conversion/installation takes place. The City will provide applicant with a notice to proceed after the initial inspection. No work should be done before this notice to proceed is given. The applicant then has a six-month period to complete the conversion. Upon completion, the property will be re-inspected to ensure compliance with the *Trees are Cool* requirements. The *Grass-to-Xeriscape* incentive program and *Trees are Cool* will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Continuation of the program is subject to the availability of funds. Program requirements are subject to change.

Trees are Cool Incentive Program



WHAT'S COOL ABOUT TREES?

Trees can do so much for our community, including reduce the [heat island effect](#), provide wildlife habitat, supply oxygen, and absorb carbon dioxide. Think of trees as one branch of Mesa's many sustainability efforts. Mesa has been named a Tree City USA community since 2010, helping provide our community with a greater ability to improve public urban forests and enhance our environment's livability.

The purpose of the *Trees are Cool* program is to help our single-family residential customers increase shade, create habitat, and improve air quality with trees appropriate to our Sonoran Desert climate. When you install at least one low-water use tree as part of your *Grass-to-Xeriscape Landscape Incentive*, you may be eligible for an additional incentive. *Trees are Cool* provides an incentive of \$50 for one eligible tree planted at the home, and \$75 for two eligible trees.

REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY TO QUALIFY - Read these guidelines prior to filling out your application.

1. *Trees are Cool* is available ONLY to customers who are current applicants for the *Grass-to-Xeriscape* landscape incentive program.
2. If applicant does not meet *Grass-to-Xeriscape* landscape incentive requirements and eligibility, applicant cannot apply for *Trees are Cool*.
3. **Contact us before you start!** The incentive is not retroactive to trees planted prior to the approval date, and is not applicable to tree installations that take place without the approval of the City of Mesa, nor to existing trees on the property.
4. Only one *Trees are Cool* application is eligible per property, for up to two trees.
5. Tree(s) must be on the Arizona Department of Water Resources [Low Water Use Drought Tolerant Plant List](#) for the Phoenix Active Management Area. High-water use trees (such as citrus, ash, or ficus) are ineligible. Check out amwua.org/plants for an online guide to selecting low-water use trees.
6. Tree(s) purchased must be at least 1 gallon in size. Seedlings and young trees less than 2 feet tall are ineligible.
7. Tree placement does not have to be in the area where grass removal occurs. However, if it is planted outside the conversion area, it will not count towards plant coverage requirements of the *Grass-to-Xeriscape* program.
8. Tree(s) must be planted in the ground.
9. Owner must ensure that the tree is planted properly (not too deeply) for it to qualify. See [video on proper tree installation](#).

TIPS FOR SUCCESS!

There are many resources provided here for helping you get your tree into the right place and healthy for years to come!

SELECTION & PLACEMENT

1. Consider planting where you will get the most shade to cool your home or desired area of your yard.
2. Be sure your chosen tree(s) are low-water use (see Requirements above).
3. Call [AZ Blue Stake 8-1-1](#) before digging to identify underground utility locations.
4. Choose a tree that will fit in your chosen area – use the information in [Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert](#) to see the size of a tree at full maturity. Be aware of buildings, overhead utilities, fences, and neighbors.
5. Incorporate [rainwater harvesting techniques](#) wherever you can to capture free rainwater. Get water to slow, spread & soak.

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

6. Proper maintenance, including installation, is highlighted in [Xeriscape: Landscaping with Style in the Arizona Desert](#).
7. It is critical to plant at the right depth – not too deeply. Root ball should be at least 1 – 2 inches above the ground. Mulch the area outside of the root ball, leaving the roots exposed and not under cover.
8. Be sure to remove the nursery stake (directly against the tree trunk). Only add staking if needed for no more than one year.
9. Use native soil without fertilizer to backfill the hole dug to plant the tree.
10. Don't prune your new tree for one year – let it get strong and healthy.
11. Fall and spring are the best times to plant your trees, before the stress of the hot summer.

WATERING

12. [Landscape Watering by the Numbers](#) can help you determine watering frequency as the tree gets established and beyond.
13. Trees should be on a separate valve of the irrigation system for optimal watering amounts and frequency.
14. New trees require more water as they get established. You will be able to reduce the watering after about 2 years in the ground.

NEED MORE HELP? CHECK OUT <https://www.mesaaz.gov/residents/sustainability/arbor-day> FOR SO MUCH MORE!

- * Hire a Pro
- * Tree Selection
- * Planting
- * How to videos
- * Irrigation
- * Pruning

