

Horticulturist Toby Day from the MSU Extension Office recently provided a presentation regarding Xeriscape planting.

Did you know?

Planting:

- *Xeriscape does not mean to remove all turf grass but to reduce turf grass.
- *Group plants according to: Light, moisture, and soil requirements.
- *Always plant in groups of odd numbers for more pleasing aesthetic results. 1,3,5,7
- *Remember texture and colors when you choose your plants.

Soil:

- *A basic soil test will cost approximately \$25.00 and can save a resident money.
- *Use a tulip bulb planter and collect at least the upper 6 inches of soil in about 10 locations. Mix and sent to a lab.
- *Improve your soil by incorporating organic matter depending on soil texture.
- * Any lab can help here are two:

MSE Laboratory
200 Technology Way
Butte, MT 59701 406-494-7334

Soil Testing Laboratory
103 Waldron Hall, Bolley Drive
North Dakota State University
Fargo, North Dakota 58105 701-231-8942

Lawn Care:

- *Water your lawns in the mornings- never in the middle of the day.
- *Industry standard is 1" of water per week on the average.
- *A good way to test how much water you are putting on your yard is to scatter several tuna cans out in your yard, run the sprinkler. If watering 3 times per week, the can should be 1/3 full each time you run the sprinkler.
- *Water new lawns less deeply and more frequently, established lawns more deeply and less frequently.
- *Drip Irrigation is easier then you think and very beneficial.

Mowing:

- *Core-aerating the lawn is more beneficial then power raking.
- *Mowing height recommendation is approximately 2-3 inches.
- *It is not necessary to remove clippings.

Trees:

- *Mulch around the trees helps maintain moisture and improve growing conditions.
- *Sprinkler systems do not provide enough water for trees.
- *Water tree at drip edge of branches--- not the trunk of tree.
- *If you can water in winter months your trees will flourish.
- *Drip systems provide the most effective deep watering.
- *Stop watering by Sept 1 to harden-off for winter months.