



Sensible Landscaping for Central Texas



- **Organic Document: Changes are Anticipated**
- **Preserving Existing Vegetation is Cost Effective**
- **Limit Underutilized Turf**

ENVIRONMENTAL

OVERVIEW

Sustainability

- Conserving Water
- Longevity of Resources
- Engage Community

Construction Benefits

- Payback as Selling Point
- More Resources to Continue
- Less Haul Off Costs

Home Owner

- Less Life Cycle Costs
- Easier Maintenance



TRADITIONAL VS. SENSIBLE LANDSCAPE

- **Up to 50% Turf (max 7000sqft)**
- **Low water use turf**
- **Landscaping that reduces the need for irrigation**
- **Site Specific**



COST OVERVIEW

6250 SF LOT

TRADITIONAL LANDSCAPE

- **80% Turf**
- **20% Beds/Undisturbed**

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$10,000

IRRIGATION USE 6604 GAL/JULY

SENSIBLE LANDSCAPE

- **50% Turf**
- **50% Beds/Undisturbed**

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$12,500

IRRIGATION USE 3663 GAL/JULY

WATER USE IN PERSPECTIVE

**SAVINGS EQUAL TO FILLING LAKE
AUSTIN 1.5 TIMES/YR**

CALL TO ACTION

- **Turf Alternatives**
- **Builder Cost (soil)**
- **Plant Availability**
- **Refine Guidelines**





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SOIL OVERVIEW

Depth

- Beds tilled to a depth of 6"
- The deeper the soil, the longer the turf can go between waterings

Source

- Amended on site soils
- Imported Soil
- Combination
- Undisturbed Areas



IRRIGATION

Drip Irrigation

- Should be used in all landscape plant bed areas, except where annuals are planted
- Required by the state to be used in narrow landscape areas < 48", 6" setback adjacent to hardscape surfaces

Spray and Rotor Irrigation

- Typically used in turf areas
- Multi stream rotors



HOMEOWNER CHECKLIST

Irrigation System

Controller Brand _____

- Controller Instructions
- Controller Backed Up By Battery __Y__N
- Number of Zones ____
- Irrigation Design Plan
- Zone Boundaries And Irrigation Type
- Location of Valve Boxes
- Location of Water Meter
- Community Irrigation Regulations
- Irrigation Brochure
- Watering Schedule

Plants Identified

Trees _____

Shrubs _____

Turf _____

- Plant information and water requirements

(completed by Builder and given during final walk-through)

BUILDERS CHECKLIST

Soil

- Soil test performed
- Native Soil being preserved
- Topsoil brought from off site
- 6 inches of topsoil
- 1 inch quality compost
- All trees barricaded at dripline
- Construction equipment precluded from landscape area

Plants Identified

Trees _____

Shrubs _____

Turf _____

- Plants properly spaced
- Trees: mature spacing coordinated
- Herbaceous: mature spacing coordinated

(completed by Builder and given during final walk-through)

BUILDERS CHECKLIST CONT.

Irrigation System

- Rain sensor installed
- Backflow device installed
- 6-inch heads installed
- Drip irrigation is installed the proper depth below the top of soil (and mulch).
- Heads installed proper distance from hard surfaces
- Design corrected to account for slope
- Landscape Hydrozoned
- No broken or misaligned heads
- No leaking components, valves

Irrigation System

- Pressure adjusted to prevent misting at every head
- Irrigation plan and water budget available
- As-built plan and water schedule left with homeowner

Mulch

- Depth 3-4 inches
- Irrigation heads visible

(completed by Builder and given during final walk-through)

RESOURCES

The complete Sensible Landscaping for Central Texas Document can be found at

- www.hbaaustin.com

For additional information please visit:

- <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/water-conservation>
- <http://www.lcra.org/water>