

resource – water.

Call the **Extension Service** for information

**Xeriscape landscaping incorporates 7 basic principles which lead to saving water:**

- ✧ Planning and design
- ✧ Soil analysis
- ✧ Appropriate plant selection
- ✧ Practical turf areas
- ✧ Efficient irrigation
- ✧ Use of mulches
- ✧ Appropriate maintenance

on xeriscaping and adapted trees and shrubs, the **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on Wildscaping** and visit the **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center** for terrific ideas.

### **Oak Wilt Management**

Oak wilt is a major disease problem in live oaks, Shumard oaks, Spanish oaks, water oaks, black jack oaks and other members of the red oak family. The Forest Service and Extension Service can provide information and assistance. To prevent the initial outbreak of the disease, avoid pruning trees from February 1 through June. **Treat all wounds or cuts** greater than ½ inch diameter immediately after wounding regardless of season. Handle oak firewood cautiously, infected wood can spread oak wilt. Learn oak symptoms and encourage others to care for their trees properly. Oak wilt can kill a live oak or red oak in less than a month.

### **Water Efficiently**

- ☛ Plant native and adapted vegetation.
- ☛ Water grass only when needed. If grass springs up after being walked on, it does not need watering.
- ☛ Soak grass long enough for water to reach the roots. **Water slowly and deep.**
- ☛ Water during the cool, early morning hours

- ☛ Avoid watering on windy days.
- ☛ Use drip irrigation systems for plantings
- ☛ Do not cut the grass too short.
- ☛ Do not waste water
- ☛ Use rainwater when possible

### **Landscaping Tips:**

**Don't try to grow a lawn over your entire acreage.** Only put in the amount of lawn you need. Make the rest of the acreage a more natural landscape. Use ground cover plants in these areas; there are many good ones to select from.

**Don't line walks and driveways** with unnecessary plantings or place foundation plants so close to the house that they can't be maintained.

**Do select plants carefully**, considering their ultimate size (height and width).

**Don't use** fast growing plants which will require constant pruning.

**Do use mowing strips or edges** along walks, flower beds, and around trees and shrubs.

These will reduce mowing and edging problems and create a much neater landscape.

### **Creating A Wildscape Landscape**

1. Native plant species that produce seed, nuts and berries are best for attracting wildlife. To appeal to a variety of wildlife, arrange plants in varying layers.

2. Water is a vital ingredient to any

**Mulching** is one of the simplest and most beneficial practices you can use in the yard and garden. Mulching **enriches and protects** soil, helping provide a better growing environment.

wildscape. If you have enough space, ponds are great, but pools, birdbaths or even an inverted trash can lid works well too.

3. Bird feeders are great additions to