



### **TIP # 3**

## **SMART WATER USE LANDSCAPE IDEAS**

Select plants that are suitable for low water use landscapes. Native plants are particularly adapted to the area and generally require less maintenance than non-native varieties. Seek advice from experienced landscape professionals or your local nursery.

1. Select and install an efficient irrigation system.
2. Plant in the fall or early spring.
3. Collect a soil sample for testing at the County Extension Agency and add fertilizer if needed.
4. Group plants with similar light and water needs in the same irrigation zone.
5. Clear all planting areas of weeds.
6. Consider installing a layer of woven fabric to reduce weed growth.
7. Plant trees first, shrubs next, and groundcover with accents last.
8. Remember that plants grow. Properly space plants based on mature size. Leave plenty of room between plants and buildings or powerlines.
9. A planting hole should be as deep as the rootball and three times as wide. Rootballs should be even with the surface when placed in the hole.
10. Check drainage by watering the hole before the plant is set.
11. If a plant is root bound, loosen the roots and clip those that are growing around the rootball.
12. Water immediately after planting and closely watch for signs of distress for several days.

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## RELATED INFORMATION SOURCES

AZ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY

[WWW.AZDEQ.GOV](http://WWW.AZDEQ.GOV)

(602) 771-2300

AZ DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

[WWW.AZWATER.GOV](http://WWW.AZWATER.GOV)

(602) 771-8500

PROJECT WET

(WATER EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS [HTTP://  
CALS.ARIZONA.EDU/ARIZONAWET/](http://CALS.ARIZONA.EDU/ARIZONAWET/)

U.S. EPA

OFFICE OF WATER

[WWW.EPA.GOV/OW/INDEX.HTML](http://WWW.EPA.GOV/OW/INDEX.HTML)

WATER: USE IT WISELY

[WWW.WATERUSEITWISELY.COM](http://WWW.WATERUSEITWISELY.COM)

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