

# CHEROKEE CHANNEL

VOLUME 3

EDITION 1

SPRING 2008

**2008 WATER  
CONSERVATION  
EDITION**

## Cherokee Metropolitan District



6250 Palmer Park Blvd  
Colorado Springs, CO 80915  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Monday – Friday  
719-597-5080

[www.cherokeemetro.org](http://www.cherokeemetro.org)

## Have a suggestion or question?

Attend a Board Meeting  
5:30 p.m. at the above address on:  
April 8, 2008  
May 13, 2008  
June 10, 2008  
July 8, 2008

## Cherokee Ridge Golf Course



1850 Tuskegee Place  
Colorado Springs, CO 80915  
Pro Shop – 719-597-2637  
Starter – 719-597-2643  
Maintenance – 719-597-8386

Call for a tee time!

[www.cherokeeridgegolfcourse.com](http://www.cherokeeridgegolfcourse.com)



**Cherokee is the first community  
to host Water Returns program**

**Learn how you can  
participate on page 4**



## 2008 Water Conservation

### Stage 2

Starting April 1, two-day a week watering will begin as we implement Stage 2 of our Water Conservation Plan for the 2008 irrigation season running from April 1 to September 30.



No changes have been made to assigned watering days or times. Odd and even watering days are determined by using the last digit of your address. Please use the table below to determine your days and times:

	<b>Residential Businesses</b>	<b>Common Areas</b> <small>Large areas that cannot be watered within a 2 hour time frame ( i.e. apartments, commercial complexes)</small>
<b>Lawn Watering Restriction</b>	2 days per week	2 days per week
<b>Odd Address Days</b>	Tuesday Saturday	Tuesday Saturday
<b>Even Address Days</b>	Wednesday Sunday	Wednesday Sunday
<b>Time Allowed</b>	2 hours	Rotors: 45 min/zone Pop-Ups: 15 min/zone
<b>Watering Times</b>	Before 9 a.m. After 6 p.m.	Before 9 a.m. After 6 p.m.

### TREES, FLOWERS, GARDENS AND SHRUBS

These items may be watered on any day before 9 a.m. and after 6 p.m.

The only requirement is that a positive shut-off or drip system be used to avoid excess runoff.

Drip systems should be limited to 60 minutes each day.



**If you are planning a garden project this year, consider installing a drip system. They effectively and efficiently deliver water directly to the root system.**

### CAR WASHING

Stage 2 conservation allows car washing on any day at any time.

Use a bucket and a sponge or towel to clean the vehicle and a positive shut-off nozzle to limit excess water usage.



**By using a positive shut-off nozzle, you can keep your car wash water usage to 10 gallons or less!**

# Sod Permits

Available April 1 thru May 15, 2008



**Availability:** April 1 – May 15, 2008  
Sept. 1 – Sept. 30, 2008

**Cost:** \$50 per permit

**Requirements:**

- Sod/seed proof of purchase
- Area of sod/seed in square feet
- Soil Amendment proof of purchase
- Drawing/plot plan indicating sod/seed area(s)

**Limitations:**

- Permits are issued the day of purchase
- No post-dated permits
- 4 weeks of daily watering
- Watering must take place before 9 am or after 6 pm
- \*Maximum of 1,500 square feet for the life of the property

## Conservation Enforcement

We do enforce conservation within the District. If you are found to be in violation of a restriction, a notice will be issued according to the following guidelines:

- A notice will be placed on your door the following business day during regular business hours.
- A copy of the notice will be mailed the following business day to the billing address on file.

Violations are as follows:

Level	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Penalty	Warning	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$350.00	\$600.00

Each additional violation will increase \$250.00. All penalty fees will be applied to your account and appear in the OTHER box.



## Soil Amendments

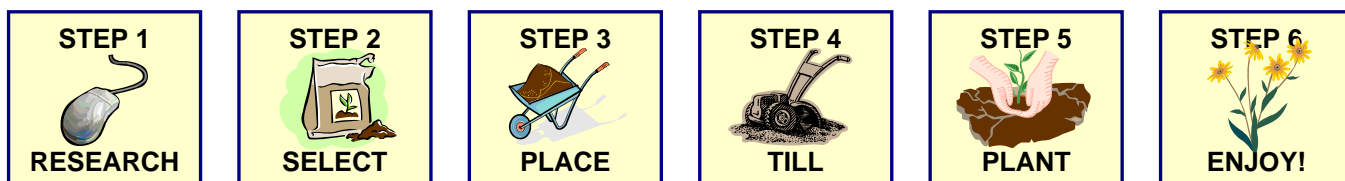
### Building a Successful Foundation

Plants rely on environments rich in organic material to help them grow and flourish. Since most of the soil within our District is sand or clay – not suitable growing environments – it is important to add a soil amendment to your planting sites.

And with water conservation measures in place it is more important than ever to provide a good foundation for root growth, since your ability to water is limited. Amending the soil will help retain moisture and provide needed organic material to the root system. This is the primary reason we require an amendment when purchasing a sod permit.

There are several options to choose from, including compost, aged manure or sphagnum peat moss. We recommend that you research first to determine the best option for your specific project. Once you have made your selection, place 1-2 inches of your selected material on the planting site and till it to a depth of 6-8 inches. Finish off areas around flowers and plants with mulch such as wood chips to help reduce evaporation and shade soil.

Choosing a soil amendment is as simple as:



## Sod Permit Q&A

**\*Can I purchase more than one permit?**

Yes, more than one permit can be purchased; however, permits will only be issued until your 1,500 square foot maximum has been fulfilled. Example: Last year you purchased a permit for 500 square feet of sod, you still can purchase a permit(s) for an additional 1,000 square feet. Once you have reached your maximum, permits will only be issued to replace the existing sod or seed on your property.

**Can I install more than 1,500 square feet of sod/seed?**

We encourage our customers to make conservative landscaping choices; however, Cherokee will not limit how much sod/seed you install, only the amount the permit covers. You are free to install as much sod/seed as you like, but your permit will allow you to water a maximum of 1,500 square feet. Any excess must be watered according to the water conservation stage in effect.

## Xeriscape™ = Zeroscape

The Summer 2006 edition of the Cherokee Channel brought you a short introduction to Xeriscape. And what better time than spring – when you are planning your garden projects – to revisit this philosophy and how it can help you make wise landscaping choices.

If you'll remember, Xeriscape is a concept created right here in Colorado, that's right, in 1981, Denver Water coined this term to easily identify water conservative landscaping.

The problem is many people have the wrong idea of what Xeriscape really means. If you hear the word Xeriscape and think of rocks and cactus, take a look at these photos.



“ZEROSCAPE”

VS.

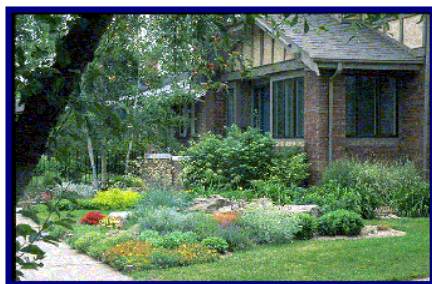


Photo courtesy of Denver Water

Big difference, right? Xeriscape is actually a combination of seven gardening principles that minimizes water usage to create appealing landscapes. The seven principles are:

- 1. Planning and Designing**
  - Good projects start with good plans
- 2. Creating Practical Turf Areas**
  - Appropriate grasses, sizes and shapes
- 3. Selecting Low-Water Plants**
  - The right plants in the right places
- 4. Using Soil Amendments**
  - Remember a good foundation
- 5. Using Mulches**
  - Cool the soil and minimize evaporation
- 6. Efficiently Irrigating**
  - Limit waste
- 7. Maintaining the Landscape**
  - Pruning, aerating, mowing, etc.



**Don't forget to stop by our office this spring and view our Xeriscape demo garden. The garden was installed last year and features a variety of xeric landscaping techniques.**



Another common misconception is that Xeriscape is expensive. The truth is it's only as expensive as you make it. You don't have to install concrete patios and other costly additions. It can be as simple as choosing low-water plants the next time you visit your local garden center.

This is only a snapshot into the world of Xeriscape. There are far more detailed resources available. To learn more about Xeriscape visit:

[www.denverwater.org](http://www.denverwater.org)

[www.xeriscape.org](http://www.xeriscape.org)

[www.ext.colostate.edu](http://www.ext.colostate.edu)

Article source: [www.denverwater.org](http://www.denverwater.org)

### Hi, my name is...

#### Scientific Name:

*Calamagrostis x Acutiflora*

#### A.K.A:

*Feather Reed Grass*



#### Description:

*Cool-season perennial grass*

#### Height:

*2-3 feet*

#### Soil Preference:

*Moist to wet fertile soil, tolerates most soil types, including dry sandy soil, thrives in clay soils*

#### Watering:

*Water to root depth once every two weeks*

#### Enjoys:

*Full sun, complimenting flowers, acting as a barrier and swaying in the wind*

Source: [www.bluestem.ca](http://www.bluestem.ca)



Cherokee will Host Inaugural *Water Returns* Program to Conserve Water, Beautify Landscapes

**Paving the Way**

Through Cherokee Metropolitan District's leadership, the District will be the first to implement creative and sustainable solutions to water and landscaping challenges as part of the *Water Returns* pilot project launching in April.

**Cherokee & Westerra: First to Act**

Cherokee General Manager, Kip Petersen, and Westerra President, Heath Herber, helped organize Partners for Responsible Water Use, an unprecedented coalition of county water agencies, utilities, builders and developers. The coalition created *Water Returns*, a pilot project to help homeowners learn new ways to sustain quality lifestyles while reducing water usage and overall costs. The program will focus on training, research and communication.

**Water Returns: What You Can Do**

Cherokee is actively seeking 12 homeowners to help demonstrate how to create and maintain a beautiful yard in harmony with local water conditions.

The program will train homeowners in easy-to-do, easy-to-maintain and inexpensive Xeriscape techniques that enhance property value. This training, in cooperation with Colorado State Cooperative Extension targets existing landscapes or new installations.

Training will include four half-day field and classroom workshops on the last Saturday of April, May, June and September.

CSU Extension volunteer instructors will lead the workshops and maintain a help hotline to assist participants throughout the project.

Homeowners will be asked to provide water use and cost data to researchers who will analyze results of techniques learned from the training. This information

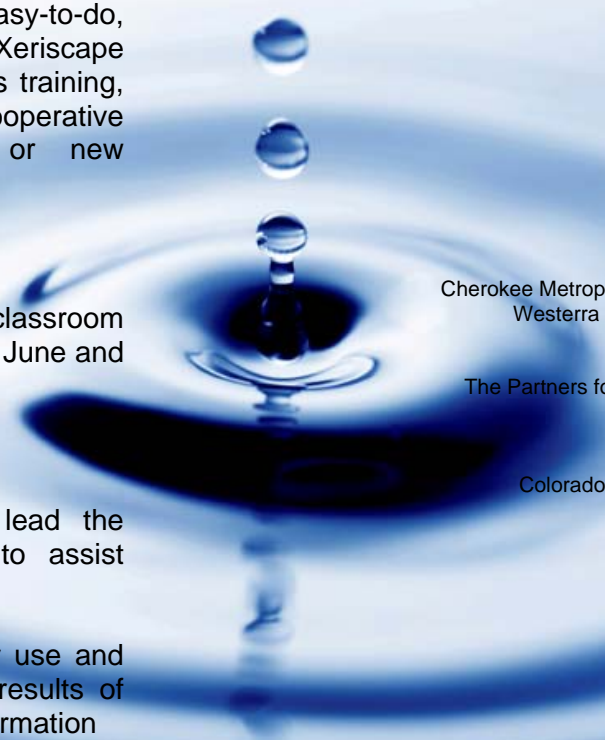
will be reported in aggregate with findings from other communities, keeping personal information private. Research findings on water and economic savings will be used to communicate program success statewide to help others learn sustainable water practices.

Cherokee will cover participants' \$250 registration fee, but they will be asked to help defray material and program costs with a \$30 contribution.

**Act Now: Be Part of the Change**

The registration deadline is April 16, so don't wait! Be part of the revolution, become a community leader and advocate for responsible water use. To apply or to learn more about the program, contact Bryan English, at 597-5080, or via e-mail at [benglish@cherokeemetro.org](mailto:benglish@cherokeemetro.org). Be the first to adopt and champion sustainable water practices. Together we can make a difference!

*Water Returns is all about opportunity – a collaborative demonstration of the significant benefits and vital importance of responsible water use practices, both for now and future generations.*



**Water Returns Coalition:**

Cherokee Metropolitan District as Host Community & Westerra Development as Founding Sponsor

- ...and members of
- The Partners for Responsible Water Use (PRWU):
- C4 Projects
- City of Colorado Springs
- Colorado Springs Utilities
- Colorado State University El Paso Extension
- EcoBroker®
- La Plata investments, LLC
- Plan West Inc.
- Rothberg, Tamburini & Winsor Inc.

