

3. Desert plants will save you money

If beauty and water conservation don't catch your attention, maybe the affect on your wallet will. Converting an existing grass lawn to desert landscaping will require some investment, but can result in as much as a 75 percent savings per year.

In addition, a well-designed landscape can offer shade and natural cooling in the summer, thus reducing energy costs as well.



A



B



C

Consider this...

House-by-house comparisons consistently show homes with grass lawns use considerably more water than homes with desert landscaping.

For example, look at these similar-sized homes located in nearby neighborhoods.

A. This desert-landscaped home used 221 billing units of water in a one-year period, which under current rates would cost \$181.

B. This home, featuring more mature desert plants and grass in the back yard, used 374 billing units of water in the same period. Under current rates, the annual cost would be \$307.

C. The home with the grass lawn used 938 billing units of water in the same period. Under current rates, the annual cost would be \$769.

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Three reasons to Love desert landscaping

1. Desert plants use less water

On average, up to 80 percent of the water used by a Coachella Valley Water District customer is used outside the home. If you want to do your part to conserve water, desert landscaping — through native and introduced water-efficient trees, shrubs and ground covers — is the single most significant change you can make.

There are hundreds of colorful plants that don't require watering every day, except in the extreme summer months. Grouping plants according to their moisture needs and altering irrigation to fit the season offer additional water savings.

Irrigation Guide

This table shows the approximate amount of water needed in gallons per day of watering. While plants should be watered every day in the summer, they only need water two days a week in winter months.

Plant name	Description	In January Water 2x/wk	In July Water 7x/wk
Verbena	low-use ground cover	0.7	0.9
Texas ranger and Senna	low-use shrubs	0.7	0.9
Red bird of paradise	moderate shrub	1.8	2.0
Acacia aneura	low-use tree	14.0	18.0
Turf (100 sq.ft.)	cool/warm season mix	17.8	19.4

2. Desert plants are beautiful



This plant combination provides a striking display in the fall with Texas ranger (thundercloud's) bright purple blooms, yellow verbena, the red/orange/yellow blooms of a red bird of paradise with a sprinkling of bougainvillea. Did you know that overwatered bougainvillea don't produce as many blooms?

A water-efficient yard doesn't have to be a single cactus surrounded by colored pebbles. Today's water-efficient garden is lush, colorful and beautiful. These plants are perfect examples for a garden that uses less water and is harmonious with the Coachella Valley's naturally picturesque surroundings.

For more irrigation and plant information, order our informative, 160-page book, *Lush & Efficient Landscape Gardening in the Coachella Valley*. This

guide is available for purchase at either office, or by printing an order form available on our web site, www.cvwd.org.



Above: Purple lantana is a fast growing ground cover and water-saving alternative to grass. The pink penstemon, desert spoon yucca and senna shrub all have low water needs and thrive in desert sun.

Left: The Acacia aneura is one of almost 1,000 species of Acacia, all of which are tolerant of heat. This variety grows slowly to 20 feet high and makes a good windbreak or screen.

On the cover: In the center is an Orange jubilee, a hybrid of the Tecoma stans. Both are large shrubs with the potential to reach 15 to 20 feet. They bloom prolifically nearly year-round. The yellow blooms behind it are from a Sonora Palo Verde tree. The shrub with pinkish blooms in the forefront is a type of Texas ranger.