

Spring/Summer 2025

# Water Smart Planting Guide for the Bozeman Area



Welcome to your go-to handbook for diving into water wise gardening – because every drop counts, and so does your effort!  
Learn more at [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com).

**CITY OF** **BOZEMAN**  
WATER CONSERVATION

## Bozeman’s Blueprint for Water Wisdom

### Water Smart Bozeman

To get started, let’s understand what being Water Smart is all about. It’s simple. Being Water Smart is:

- **Understanding where our water resources come from.**
- **Recognizing it’s a limited resource.**
- **Taking action to conserve it.**

At the City of Bozeman, we’re here to give you all the tools, resources, and information you need to make water wise choices. With 50% of Bozeman’s summertime water use going to lawns and landscaping, the easiest and best place to start is right outside your door.

Use this guide to get water wise – with tips for your ground and your grass, as well as irrigation insights and step-by-step landscape makeover inspiration. Then, take advantage of the City of Bozeman’s water conservation incentives to transform your yard from thirsty to thriving.

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## Bozeman’s Limited Water Supply

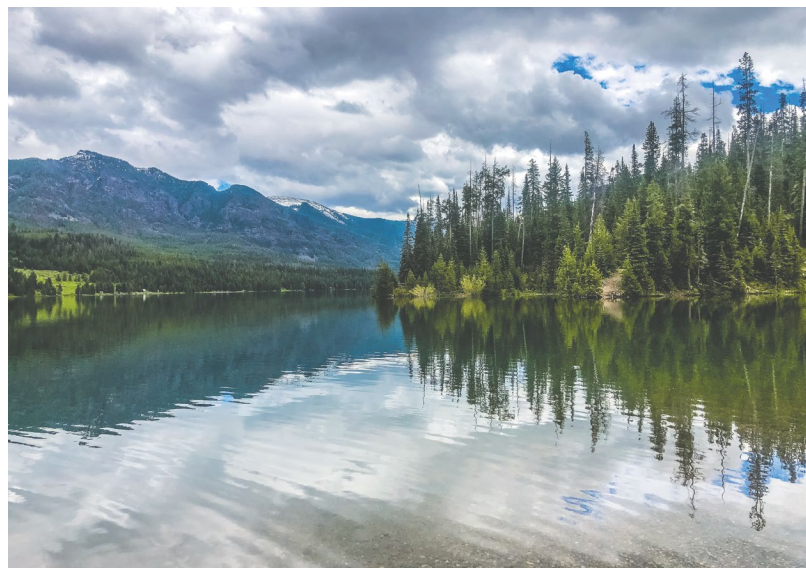
### Precipitation to Preservation: Our Water Story

Bozeman relies on snowpack for its water supply, with about 80% coming from the Gallatin Range, feeding Bozeman and Hyalite Creeks. The other 20% comes from a spring at the headwaters of Lyman Creek in the Bridger Range.

While Bozeman is fortunate to have high quality water, supplies are limited. With an average of 16 inches of precipitation each year, Bozeman is considered semi-arid and drought prone. Shifting climate patterns make these challenges more acute:

more of our precipitation falls as rain instead of snow and warmer temperatures cause snow to melt earlier, meaning we’re left with less snow to slowly feed our rivers during the late spring and summer—when we need it most.

**Water Resource Planning.** The City plans for its water future by engaging in long-range integrated water resource planning, which evaluates opportunities to develop new water supplies and enhance conservation efforts. The City is currently updating its long-range Integrated Water Resource Plan, and we want to hear from you! Learn more about upcoming engagement opportunities by visiting <https://engage.bozeman.net>.



**Bozeman is focusing on water conservation to reduce the future supply-demand gap by 50%.** And our landscaping choices can go a long way to help! Plants that are water smart, drought-tolerant, and native to our region are not only adapted to thrive with less water but also support the local ecosystem, making your garden beneficial to overall watershed health.

The City’s Water Conservation Division is dedicated to guiding residents on how they can save water by using it more efficiently.

*Hyalite Reservoir, Gallatin Range south of Bozeman. One of Bozeman’s water sources.*

## Everyone Plays a Part

Big or small, every water-saving action counts towards keeping Bozeman green and thriving, even during times of drought. You could transform your garden with drought-tolerant plants, or start smaller with a free sprinkler system assessment. Every effort adds up!

Saving water also saves money! From swapping sprinklers to removing turfgrass, we have rebate and incentive programs for your home and business. Find the best ones for you on pages 12 and 20, and at [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com)—your yard, your wallet, and your thumb will all get a little more green.

### Better Together: Join the Water-Saving Squad

The City of Bozeman invites you to join us! We’ve got a variety of programs and events designed to engage everyone in water conservation. Here’s what’s happening:

- **Free Sprinkler Assessments:** This summer, take advantage of our no-cost evaluations to ensure your sprinkler system is as efficient as possible. Details on page 12.
- **Shower Better Month:** In October, we’re giving away free WaterSense® showerheads. Upgrade to a high-efficiency showerhead and save water!
- **Water Smart Landscaping Classes:** Every spring, learn how to turn your yard into a drought-tolerant oasis.
- **Fun for the Little Ones:** Grab a Shower Better or Brush Better Kit filled with fun and educational activities for kids.
- **Summer Savings Tool Kit:** This free kit is packed with tips and tools to help conserve water in your garden and landscape all summer long.
- **Fix-A-Leak Kit:** Detect and repair leaks in your home with our free kit. Don’t miss our special giveaway during Fix-A-Leak Week every March.
- **Garden Party:** Kick off summer by taking home drought-tolerant plants, a native pollinator seed mix, and compost. You’ll also have the chance to learn from local experts about healthy soils, native plants, pollinators, bird-friendly gardening, irrigation, and tackling weeds.



### What’s in a Name?

#### Water Smart vs. Water Wise vs. Drought-Tolerant

In Bozeman, “Water Smart” isn’t just a phrase—it’s a philosophy. But let’s break down the buzzwords:

You will also see the term “**water wise**”—just another way of talking about water conservation. All these terms are green flags for greener gardening!

**Drought-Tolerant:** These low-maintenance plants need minimal water once they’ve settled in after two to three growing seasons, even during dry conditions—perfect for our local landscape.

**Water Smart:** These plants can handle dry spells too but perk up with a deep drink during the hottest days.

# The City of Bozeman Drought Equation

## TRUE OR FALSE?

**When Bozeman experiences a winter of heavy snowfall, there is no chance of drought the following summer.**

**FALSE.** If we experience warmer than normal temperatures in the spring and/or rain instead of snow, we could end up short on water when we need it later in the summer.

**The City relies on rainfall to boost its water supply in the spring.**

**FALSE.** While rainfall does bolster streamflows and reservoir levels immediately during and after rain events, the City relies on snowpack to serve as stored moisture to gradually melt throughout the spring and into summer months.

**We have plenty of storage capacity for our water supplies.**

**FALSE.** The City's only stored water comes from Hyalite Reservoir, which is used to support increased water demands associated with outdoor watering of lawns and landscapes during the summer months. The reservoir is fed by snowmelt in the spring.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The City of Bozeman relies on **SNOWPACK** for its **WATER SUPPLY**.

**50% of Bozeman's summertime water use GOES INTO LAWNS & LANDSCAPES.**

## What is the Drought Equation?



## Other Factors in the Drought Equation



Below normal snowpack may lead to reduced overall water supplies.



Early spring melt may lead to decreased late summer streamflows.



Decreased late summer streamflows may increase our reliance on Hyalite Reservoir.



Higher than normal summer temperatures may lead to increased outdoor water use and reduced Hyalite Reservoir levels.



Reduced levels in Hyalite Reservoir may lead to higher likelihood of outdoor water use restrictions.

Visit [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com) for tips, rebates, and more information about drought.



## Drought Management Plan

Drought isn't just a possibility in Bozeman; it's part of our reality. The good news is, Bozeman's got a game plan! In 2022, the City of Bozeman rolled out its updated Drought Management Plan. This roadmap outlines how the City monitors drought conditions and kicks our response strategies into gear - including how we all can chip in to save water. This means, when drought is declared, the community has a clear guide on how to conserve.

The City of Bozeman evaluates local water supply data, such as Hyalite Reservoir volume, area streamflow, and snowpack - as well as national climate indices, to evaluate Bozeman's drought conditions throughout the year. If water supplies are stressed, the City may declare a drought stage with corresponding response measures that community members may be required to take in order to maximize available supplies for essential uses.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**A single Bozeman resident uses an average of 145 gallons of water per day in the summer.**

**Reducing your water use by**

- 10% saves 15 gallons/day
- 20% saves 29 gallons/day
- 30% saves 44 gallons/day
- 40% saves 58 gallons/day



## Drought Stages, Explained

### Stage 1 WATCH

**Guidelines:** Conserving water is encouraged, but not yet mandatory\*.

**Drought Surcharge:** Your water bill could see an increase of 0-24.9%.

**Your Action:** Try to reduce your water use by 10%. Outdoor water use is a good place to start making changes.

### Stage 2 ADVISORY

**Guidelines:** Additional outdoor watering restrictions may be mandatory\*.

**Drought Surcharge:** Expect a rate increase of 10-41.6%.

**Your Action:** Cut back on water use by 20%. Limit outdoor watering to just two days a week. Restaurants and lodging facilities are required to provide water and linen services only upon request.

### Stage 3 WARNING

**Guidelines:** Lawn watering ban will likely go into effect, and other outdoor water uses may be restricted\*.

**Drought Surcharge:** Expect a rate increase of 20-100%.

**Your Action:** Reduce your water usage by 30%. Be mindful of the times and methods for watering trees, shrubs, and gardens.

### Stage 4 EMERGENCY

**Guidelines:** Water may be rationed for essential uses only\*.

**Drought Surcharge:** Your water bill could increase by 25-200.1%.

**Your Action:** Try to cut water use by 40%. Focus on essential water use only.

\*Visit [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com) and click the Drought Management button for details on drought restriction guidelines for residences and businesses. Drought response measures may vary based on each unique declared drought event.

### Drought Condition Updates

We actively monitor local drought conditions. Stay informed by checking the drought meter at [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com).

### Thanks for making a difference!

A big shout-out to everyone who stepped up during the 2021 Stage 2 drought declaration! Your efforts helped reduce Bozeman's water use by 20%, ensuring our community had enough water to go around during times of shortage.

### How to Help

Every drop counts! Whether we're in a drought or not, saving water is a big deal.

- Visit [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com): Your go-to for all things water-saving. Find tips, tricks, and rebates to make your home and business water smart!
- Get rebates on indoor appliances like WaterSense® toilets, and outdoor items like efficient irrigation system components.

## The Dirt on Dirt

Thriving landscapes grow from healthy soil. Understanding and caring for the soil beneath your lawn and garden beds is key to saving water and nurturing healthy plants. So take stock of your soil, show it some love with DIY compost, and mulch your way to a happy, water-friendly landscape.

### Soil 101: Know Your Ground

Gardeners worth their salt know that lawns and landscapes depend on good dirt. Knowing your soil type is the secret to enhancing it – so you can water wisely and grow gorgeous landscapes.



### What's Under Your Garden?

- **Clay:** Sticky and malleable when wet, this “peanut butter” of soils can be rock-hard when dry. It benefits greatly from the addition of organic matter.
- **Sand:** With a gritty texture, this soil breaks apart easily, even when moist, with quick water drainage.
- **Silt:** The happy middle ground, with a smooth texture that supports ideal water and nutrient retention.

Bozeman primarily sits on clay. If you water this type of soil too fast, the water pools and runs off into the street and storm drains, picking up all kinds of contaminants that end up in our watershed.

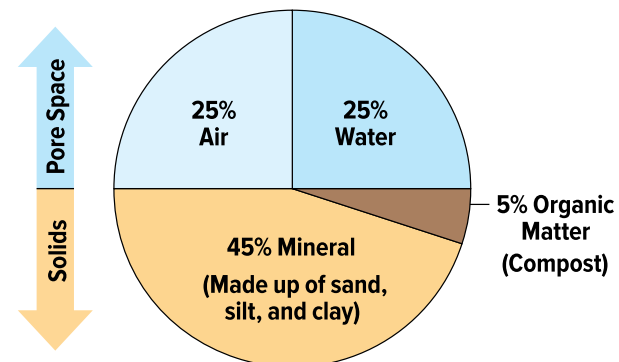
Knowing your soil type sets you up for smart strategies that minimize water waste. A simple “putty test” with a tablespoon of soil in the palm of your hand and a bit of water will reveal your soil texture. For a thorough analysis, try the “Jar Test” (learn how at [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com)).

The best soil contains diverse particle sizes and organic materials, creating a balanced environment for root growth and water retention.

## Improving Your Soil

Soil is the living, breathing foundation that supports all plant life. Good soil management helps your plants – and the living microbes critical to their health – get the water, oxygen, and nutrients they need to put down roots and thrive.

Air in soil is vital for roots, which need both water and oxygen to thrive. Healthy soil has 50% pore space, balancing oxygen and water for plants. Insufficient pore space limits water retention and soil infiltration, preventing plant growth. Adding organic matter to your soil boosts microorganisms, enhancing pore space and soil quality for plants.



### Once you know your soil type, make it even better:

- Aerate compacted soil to improve oxygen flow. Tilling, to a depth of about six inches, should be reserved for severely compacted areas to avoid disrupting soil structure.
- Add a top dressing of organic matter, like compost or shredded leaves. This not only feeds the soil but also improves its water-holding capacity. If tilling your soil, you can incorporate soil amendments as you go.
- A two to three inch top layer of organic mulch retains moisture, suppresses weeds, and gradually improves soil health.

For more details on water wise soil amendments that support a healthy soil ecosystem resilient to drought, click on the Water Conservation button at [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com).



## Compost and Mulch

### Doing the Groundwork

Compost, the outcome of decomposing organic material, is like a superfood for your garden. You can buy it, or make it yourself from leaves, lawn clippings, vegetable waste, and coffee grounds. Compost improves airflow in clay-rich soils and nutrient retention in sandy soils. Water wise bonus? Healthy plants in a well-amended landscape bed need less watering.

Adding compost benefits nearly all soil types, keeping moisture close to plant roots and evenly spread throughout the soil. It's perfect for prepping new beds and gardens, laying down sod, or planting trees and shrubs. Sprinkling compost as a top layer can also rejuvenate your existing lawn.

### DIY Composting: A Simple Guide

Like baking cookies, composting is about the right ingredients – in the right ratios. Just follow the recipe!

#### Compost Ingredients:

- **Materials:** Balance ‘brown’ carbon-rich materials (dead leaves, wood chips, cardboard) with ‘green’ nitrogen-rich items (lawn clippings, veggie scraps, coffee grounds). Aim for a carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of about 30:1.
- **Living Organisms:** Little helpers like worms and the microorganisms in manure kickstart the decomposition process.
- **Oxygen & Water:** Essential for composting, they keep the pile active. Your compost should be moist but not waterlogged, like a wrung-out sponge.
- **Patience:** Give your compost pile time to do its work, turning it occasionally to introduce fresh air and maintain moisture levels. Your compost might be ready in a few months, or a year. Just put it all together to get things cooking!

### The Power of Mulch

Mulch is a moisture-retaining hero. Most water evaporates before it ever reaches plant roots, but the addition of a two to three inch deep organic mulch barrier will help your trees, perennials, and shrubs keep water right where it belongs. Good mulch combats erosion, suppresses weeds, and nourishes the soil. It also helps regulate soil temperature, keeping plants protected year-round. It looks good, too, adding a polished appearance to landscaping!



### Free Wood Mulch

In partnership with Gallatin County, the City of Bozeman is giving away FREE wood mulch to residents for drought-tolerant landscaping and trees along streets and sidewalks. Pick up free mulch at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds just off of Oak Street. Look for the mulch pile, it'll be there all summer. Bring your shovel!

## Types of Mulch

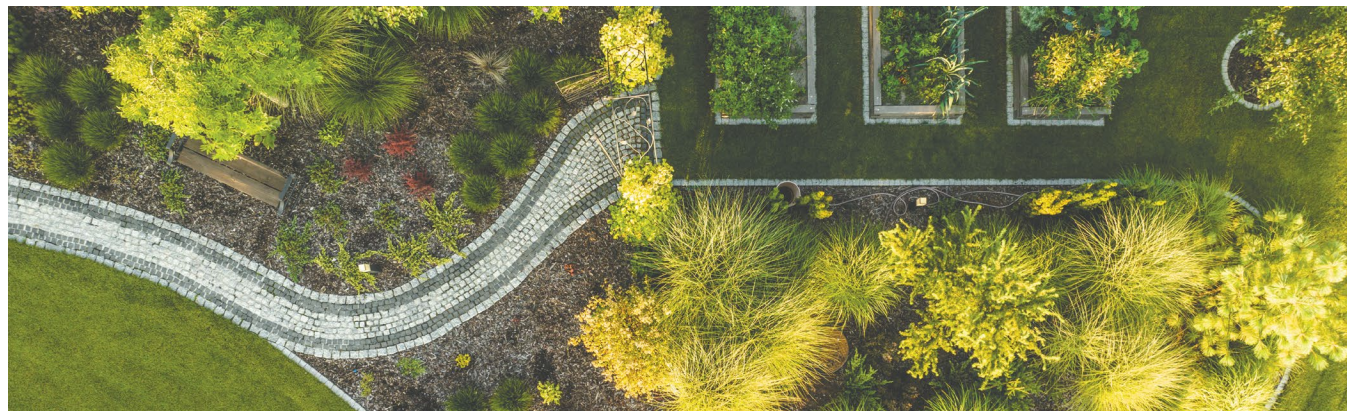
Not all types of mulch are created equal:

- **Arborist Wood Chips:** A natural mulch option that features non-processed, roughly graded wood chips, sourced directly from trees. Wood chips increase soil moisture retention, especially when installed around trees, and contribute to improved soil health over time. Stop by the City's free mulch site to pick up FREE arborist wood chips all summer long—find the details at the bottom of this page.
- **Rock Mulch:** A low-maintenance option that stays put in windy conditions. Rock mulch is commonly used for landscape features such as pathways and rain gardens, but may raise the temperature of the soil beneath it, sometimes causing stress to plants in the surrounding area. For this reason, we don't recommend installing rock mulch around trees.
- **Dyed Mulches:** Often sourced from recycled wood, these may contain chemicals and may not improve soil quality as they break down. If opting for a dyed mulch, be sure to identify where the mulch was originally sourced.
- **Synthetic Mulches:** These increase soil temperature, are less effective in retaining moisture, and do not contribute to soil health - lacking the benefits of an organic wood mulch.

### Smart Mulching Tips

- Before mulching, especially around new shrubs and perennials, ensure the surrounding soil is moist. This step prevents the roots from drying out, especially during dry spells.
- Rake through your mulch at least once a season to prevent mold, which can occur if mulch remains damp and unturned.
- Aim for a mulch depth of two to three inches. Too much mulch might lead to crown disease from excessive moisture and heat, while too little won't adequately regulate soil temperature or retain moisture, inviting weeds.
- Since organic wood mulch decomposes over time, to enrich the soil, remember to replenish your mulch layer each season. This keeps the mulch layer effective by maintaining a proper depth across your landscape.

## Gardens and Grasses



### Choosing the Right Green for Your Space

In Bozeman, we're reimagining our outdoor spaces with a focus on drought-tolerant greenery. Would you like a vegetable garden? Deer tolerant shrubs? Maybe you would like to attract butterflies and bees? Or do you need some soft turf for lawn games? There are water wise solutions for every space. Take a look out your window and imagine the possibilities.

### Grassy Tips

Whether you have a large lawn or just a small patch of grass, there are simple ways to keep it healthy, drought-resistant, and water-wise. Here's how to make the most of your lawn while conserving water:

- Each time you mow, your grass uses energy to recover. Mowing less frequently means your lawn needs less water to bounce back.
- Use slow-release fertilizers in the spring when our cool-season grasses naturally thrive with rainfall, reducing the need for extra watering.
- Taller grass provides shade, keeping the soil cooler and encouraging deeper roots for better drought resilience. Aim to let your grass grow to five inches and mow it down to three inches.
- Newly planted lawns need daily watering for the first 3-6 weeks. Once established, you can reduce watering to three days per week.

With these tips, your lawn will stay green, healthy, and water-efficient all season long!

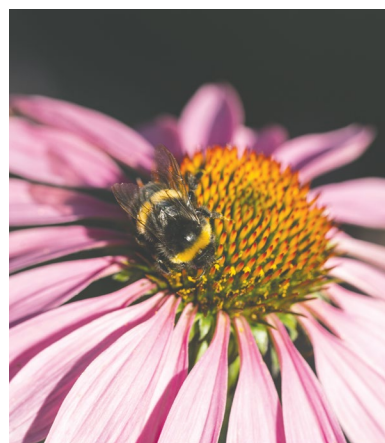
**Thinking about reducing your patch of grass?** Explore our inspiration ideas starting on page 20 and check out the City of Bozeman's **Turf Removal Rebate Program** for cash back when you replace turf with water-wise landscaping (be sure to get pre-approval before starting your project).

### Choosing Your Plants

Opting for drought-tolerant plants can cut your garden's water consumption by 75%. Watering aside, drought-tolerant plants just make outdoor gardening and landscaping easier. They need less maintenance, require less pesticides, and less fertilizing. Not to mention switching to drought-tolerant plants can increase your property value. Learn more about drought-tolerant and water smart plants and take advantage of rebates from the City of Bozeman too! See page 26 for our plant picks.

### Welcoming Pollinators

Add a little life to your landscape by planting bee and butterfly favorites. Pollinators play a crucial role in our food supply, with every third bit of food owing to their hard work. Opting for drought-tolerant native plants not only beautifies your garden but naturally attracts the buzz and flutter, supporting local food growers. Take a stroll through Bozeman's Pollinator Garden at Langhor Park for more inspiration!



### Water-Smart Edible Plants

Growing edible plants follows a lot of the same water-wise principles as landscaping—healthy soil, efficient irrigation, and plant selection make all the difference. Adding compost builds moisture-holding soil, while mulch reduces evaporation just like in ornamental gardens. Drip irrigation works just as well for vegetables and other edible plants, delivering water directly to the roots while avoiding waste.

### Ornamental Yet Edible

Many plants can serve two purposes – providing visual interest and a treat for your table. Some plants are even eligible for the City of Bozeman plant rebates.

Edible Plants that are Eligible for the City's Rebate		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Alliums, Ornamental	<i>Allium spp.</i>	Edible flowers and leaves that have mild onion flavor, commonly used in salads or as garnish.
Lavender 'Munstead'	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Edible flowers and leaves commonly used in teas and baked goods.
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Edible berries commonly used for jams and syrups; pits contain toxic compounds.
Rose, 'Woods'	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Edible rose hips commonly used in teas and jams.
Sandcherry, Western	<i>Prunus pumila</i>	Edible berries that can be eaten fresh, dried, or used in jams and syrups.
Serviceberry, Western	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Edible berries that can be eaten fresh, dried, or used in jams and syrups.
Golden Currant	<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Edible berries that can be used in jams and syrups.
Kinnikinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Edible berries that can be eaten raw or made into tea, though slightly astringent.
Grape	<i>Vitis</i> hybrid	Edible grapes that can be eaten fresh, dried as raisins, or used for juice.

### Water-Smart Vegetable Gardening

Grow a thriving vegetable garden while conserving water by choosing the right plants and using smart techniques. Warm-season crops like **asparagus**, **swiss chard**, **eggplant**, **mustard greens**, **peppers**, and **herbs** are naturally more drought-tolerant. Deep-rooted plants such as **tomatoes**, **squash**, and **melons** pull moisture from below the soil surface, reducing the need for frequent watering. You can even add beauty and flavor to your landscape with edible perennials like **raspberries** and **wild strawberries**.

#### Here are a few tips for a water-smart edible garden:

- **Grow Fast and Efficient:** Choose crops with shorter growing seasons like **radishes**, **beans**, **squash**, and **kale** — they use less water and mature quickly.
- **Go Deep:** Plant perennial vegetables such as **rhubarb** and **asparagus** with deep roots that access underground moisture, minimizing surface watering.
- **Skip the Water Hogs:** Avoid space-intensive, water-demanding crops like **broccoli** and **cauliflower**. Opt for water-wise alternatives instead.
- **Herbs Are Heroes:** Drought-tolerant herbs like **sage**, **mint**, and **chives** are resilient, flavorful, and thrive with minimal water.

With a little planning, you can enjoy a delicious, productive garden while keeping your water use low.

### Small Space Gardens

Limited on space? Whether you're a renter, have a small yard, or just want to make the most of a balcony or patio, small-space gardening is a great way to grow food efficiently. With the right setup, even windowsills and indoor spaces can become productive, water-smart mini-gardens.

#### Here's how to get started:

- **Container Gardening:** Choose containers with drainage holes to prevent waterlogging. Consider your plant's mature root depth and spread when selecting container size. For best results, use a potting mix designed for containers — it holds moisture while providing proper drainage.
- **Vertical and Hanging Gardens:** Maximize space by using trellises, hanging baskets, or stacked planters. Vining crops like **beans**, **peas**, **strawberries**, and **cucumbers** thrive in these setups, while the shaded soil below retains moisture longer.
- **Indoor Growing:** Herbs like **basil**, **thyme**, and **rosemary** and leafy greens such as **lettuce** and **spinach** grow well indoors. Place them on sunny windowsills or under grow lights for fresh, homegrown produce year-round with minimal space and water.

Once you've pinpointed things to make your yard more water wise by adding a variety of green options, check out our guide on pages 20-25 for more inspiration and a complete plant list (eligible for rebates!) starting on page 26.

## Trees: The Roots of Conservation and Community

Trees are our natural allies in water wise landscaping! Trees are not only beautiful – they’re water savers, too. By providing ample shade, they reduce soil temperature and evaporation, which means less watering overall. Their roots are fantastic at managing stormwater, helping to prevent runoff and keeping our rivers and streams clean. Plus, they naturally cool the air around homes and businesses, minimizing the need for air conditioning on those hot summer days.

Let’s dig deeper to see how trees can transform your landscape – and our shared spaces – into a water wise paradise.

### Tree TLC

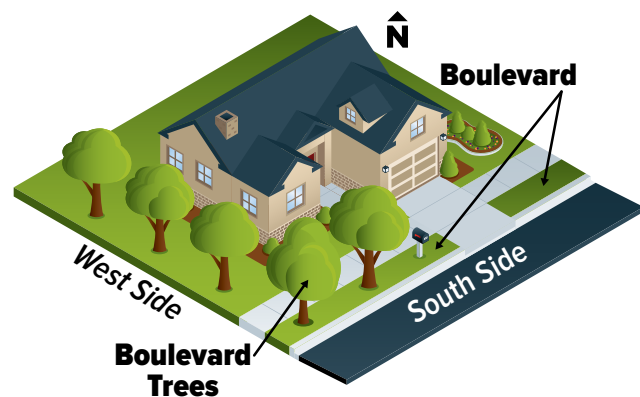
Keeping your trees happy is key to a healthy landscape.

- Using wood mulch under the tree canopy allows better air and water flow to the tree roots, mimicking natural forest conditions.
- Trunk guards help to protect young trees from damage by lawnmowers and string trimmers, especially if a mulch area isn’t an option. As trees grow these guards can girdle the tree. After the tree has established itself, be sure to remove tree stakes and trunk guards.



### Boulevard Trees

Publicly-owned right-of-way strips bordering private lots between sidewalks and streets are called boulevards. The trees planted in these spaces are public property and benefit the entire community but are cared for in a partnership between residents and the City of Bozeman Forestry Division.



The Forestry Division is responsible for planting assistance, tree species selection, health assessments, pruning, and maintenance. They will even remove damaged or diseased trees when needed.

Bozeman residents are responsible for the watering, mulching, and protecting of the trunks of these trees.

If you would like to plant a tree in the boulevard by your residence, simply start by visiting the Forestry Division for a free permit and guidance on tree selection and planting location. Want some professional assistance? Check out Bozeman’s Cost Share Tree Program which provides a variety of tree species and planting at a shared cost between you and the City. For more information visit [www.bozeman.net/forestry](http://www.bozeman.net/forestry) or call 406-582-3225.

#### Smart Planting Tree Tip

Planting trees on the south and west sides of your home provides soothing and cooling shade during the summer months.

### Tree Watering 101

Trees love routine and watering them three times a week will help keep them from getting thirsty, but even watering once a week will work if you are trying to conserve more water. Stick to Bozeman’s watering restrictions (page 11), even during drier times, and those roots will stay wet. Don’t stop watering even as trees mature – they all need water!

#### More ways to keep your trees hydrated:

- Young and new trees need about 20 gallons of water weekly from spring through early fall. Use a watering bag to deeply soak their growing roots.
- Wrap small trees (up to 3.5” diameter) with trunk guards and keep a healthy circle of mulch around them. Just be sure to remove the trunk guard as the tree grows. A good rule of thumb is to remove the trunk guard when removing the stakes from a tree.
- Make sure you water the entire area under the tree canopy to ensure every root gets its share. If your tree relies on water from lawn irrigation, consider adding a drip system to better meet the watering needs of your trees.



## Liquid Logistics for Lawns and Landscapes

Understanding your garden’s specific watering and maintenance needs is crucial for smart water usage. With more than 50% of our summer water usage going into lawns and landscapes, this is the best place to conserve. Taking the time to assess your irrigation system equipment, watering times, and your lawn and plant needs could help you save on your water bill.

The City of Bozeman offers several ways for you to save water and money in your landscape. Not only do we offer FREE sprinkler system assessments for your entire landscape, but we have rebates on water efficient sprinkler heads and more. And to ensure we are all doing our part, permanent watering restrictions are in place for those connected to City of Bozeman water utilities.

If you are a DIY-er, check out the section on sprinkler system types, testing, adjustment, and troubleshooting on the following pages. And if you need a little help, rent a DIY sprinkler assessment kit from the City of Bozeman to do your own assessment.



## City of Bozeman Permanent Outdoor Watering Restrictions

The City of Bozeman has established permanent outdoor watering restrictions for overhead spray irrigation to conserve water in our community. These apply to all residences and businesses that are connected to City of Bozeman water for outdoor irrigation.

During a declared drought, additional outdoor watering restrictions may be in effect. Visit [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com) to stay up to date on the latest drought conditions.

#### When can I water?

- Watering days are assigned based on your property’s physical address.
- Even addresses water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
- Odd addresses water on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.
- Watering is allowed before 10am and after 8pm on your designated days.

#### Exceptions:

- Low-volume drip irrigation and hand watering (with a can or a hose with a shut-off nozzle) for trees, shrubs, perennials, food gardens, flower beds, and planters are allowed any day, anytime.
- New lawns are exempt for up to 45 days to ensure they become established. Contact the Water Conservation Division to notify staff of your 45 day exemption.

### Residential Outdoor Watering Schedule

<b>SUN</b> ODD Addresses	<b>MON</b>	<b>TU</b> EVEN Addresses	<b>WED</b> ODD Addresses	<b>TH</b> EVEN Addresses	<b>FRI</b> ODD Addresses	<b>SAT</b> EVEN Addresses
<b>NO WATERING BETWEEN 10AM AND 8PM</b>						

## Local Landscaping Rebates

**Let the Rebates Rain!** Dreaming of a yard that's both beautiful and water wise? The City of Bozeman is cheering you on with rebates that put the green back in your wallet. Transforming your outdoor space into a drought-tolerant paradise or upgrading your sprinklers isn't just good for our water supply – it can save you money, too.

- **Smart Controllers:** WaterSense® labeled controllers automate watering schedules based on weather and landscape needs. They're smart, simple to set up, and some even let you control them from your smart phone.
- **Efficient Nozzles:** Upgrade to Multiple Stream Multiple Trajectory (MSMT) or H2O Chip Technology nozzles designed to minimize evaporation, runoff and wind drift. Easy to install on your current system, they make every drop count.
- **Rain Sensors:** These are like a snooze button for your sprinkler system when it rains, saving water without lifting a finger. They'll automatically pause your watering schedule, then pick up where they left off once things dry up.
- **Drip Irrigation:** Directly watering the roots of your plants means less waste and happier plants. It's a win-win for everyone.
- **Drought-Tolerant Plants:** Embrace plants that thrive on less water for a yard that's gorgeous and easy to care for. Plus, they add a pop of color and life to your outdoor space.
- **Turf Removal:** Ready to ditch the thirsty lawn? We've got big incentives for swapping out turfgrass with alternatives that are just as pretty but way less needy.

### Tips for Rebate Success:

- Before diving into upgrades, make sure your current system is working well to get the most bang for your buck.
- Be sure to set up your smart controller properly to keep your garden green without overwatering.
- When converting an existing spray zone to MSMT nozzles, you may need to increase that zone's run time to keep your grass green and healthy. Run times will vary, based on the MSMT model you choose to install.

Ready to start saving? Get the full details of Bozeman's Landscape and Sprinkler System Rebate Program by visiting [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com) and clicking on Water Conservation. Here's to making your yard the envy of the neighborhood, the water wise way!

## Sprinkler Smarter, Not Harder

Our **FREE Sprinkler Assessments** not only help with a greener lawn but also a more sustainable Bozeman! Our trained city staff will visit your home or business, conduct a thorough analysis of your sprinkler system and execute a performance test. After the assessment, you'll receive a detailed report which includes:

- **System repair needs** for any broken, buried, or leaking components.
- **Ways to improve efficiency** through the City's rebate program, such as upgrading to high-efficiency nozzles and weather-based irrigation controllers.
- **A customized watering schedule** based on the seasonal needs of your landscape throughout spring, summer, and fall.
- **A site map of your property** with the locations of sprinkler heads and zones.

From repairs to rebate-eligible upgrades, we make it simple to keep your yard green and your wallet greener while helping conserve water in Bozeman!



**Claim your free sprinkler assessment and start saving money and water by calling 406-582-3220 or visiting [www.bozeman.net/sprinklers](http://www.bozeman.net/sprinklers).**

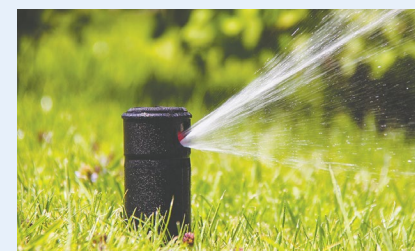
## Sprinkler Systems

### Perfecting the Sprinkle On Your Own

For a thriving, water wise lawn, it's important to use the right sprinkler setup for the size and specific conditions of your yard. If you're removing turf, switching from overhead spray to drip irrigation will save more water and improve the health of your landscape. For consistent and efficient watering, especially in drought conditions, make sure all the nozzles in a zone are of the same type to ensure even water distribution.

### Understanding Sprinkler Nozzle Types and Their Uses

Each sprinkler nozzle type serves a unique purpose, catering to different lawn sizes and watering needs. Here's how they stack up:



#### Rotor Heads

- Delivers water in rotating jets.
- Good for larger areas, 16'-40' wide.
- Tends to reduce runoff and evaporation compared to standard spray nozzles.
- Requires a hex wrench or flathead screwdriver to adjust throw distance and arc.



#### Standard Spray Nozzles

- Most commonly used in smaller areas, like boulevards or sideyards, 4'-15' wide.
- Fixed nozzle heads are most common.
- Specialty variable arc nozzles (VANs) are available for tricky spaces (narrow strips, corners, short radius), but can use up to three times the water of fixed nozzles.
- The rapid delivery of water — one and a half to three inches of water per hour — can lead to runoff.
- Light, misty spray is more prone to evaporation and wind drift.



#### Rotary/MSMT Nozzles

- Highly efficient for Bozeman's clay-rich soils.
- Offers precise control of the delivery of water to your landscape.
- Replaces standard nozzles on spray zones for more controlled watering.
- Ideal for medium spaces 8'-30' wide.
- Slow water delivery, at about four-tenths of an inch per hour, maximizes absorption rates.
- Rotating/MSMT pop-up nozzles qualify for a rebate from the City of Bozeman.

### Going Drip for Efficiency

Drip irrigation systems are ideal for delivering water straight to your plants, reducing water loss due to evaporation and wind drift. Install these systems beneath the mulch layer to keep them protected.

**Drip Tip:** When choosing drip emitters, select ones with an appropriate GPH (gallons per hour). Microsprays and other high-volume emitters often apply more water than the soil can rapidly absorb, creating runoff and water waste.



## Testing Your Sprinkler System

**Water Better with an Aqua Audit.** Understand how much water your sprinkler system delivers by testing it. Use empty tuna cans to measure water output and adjust accordingly.

- 1. Placement:** Distribute 12 flat-bottomed cans (tuna or cat food cans work well) evenly across a lawn zone in a grid pattern around sprinkler heads.
- 2. Measurement:** After running your sprinklers for 15 minutes, measure the water depth in each can, record it, and calculate the average water depth. This tells you how much water your sprinklers deliver in 15 minutes.
- 3. Adjustment:** Look to the chart at the right to determine the total watering time needed to apply one inch of water per week to the landscape, ensuring a healthy lawn during hot summer months.

Sprinkler Run Times to Apply One Inch of Water Per Week								
Average Sprinkler Flow (in.) from Test	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9
Watering Time (total min./week)	75	50	37	30	25	22	19	16

### Cycle and Soak Schedule

To prevent water waste and runoff, adopt a cycle and soak watering method. Break the total run time into shorter intervals with soak periods in between to allow the water to move deeper into the soil profile.

## Sprinkler Adjustment and Maintenance

**Did you know your sprinkler system might use more water in a week than your entire household does in a month?** A few simple adjustments can make for big water savings. Take a few minutes to dial in your spray before the heat of summer.

**Fix the Flow.** In Bozeman, many of us rely on automatic sprinkler systems for our lawns. While they can support landscape water efficiency, they need regular check-ups and adjustments to perform their best. Be sure to adjust any buried or misaligned sprinkler heads to ensure they cover the area effectively, clear away anything that might block their spray, and carefully position them to avoid watering sidewalks, concrete, or walls where water would be wasted. Avoid letting water pool in gutters, streets, and alleys.

- Water with the Seasons:** Adjust your watering schedule as the season changes. Aim to water your lawn about 1 inch per week during the hot months of July and August. In cooler May and June, water less frequently. After Labor Day, cut back to watering just once a week to help your grass prepare for dormancy.
- Smart Scheduling:** Use the “Seasonal Adjust” or “Water Budget” feature on your irrigation controller to easily change all watering times at once without having to reprogram each individual zone. Start by setting your schedule for the hottest part of the summer, then use the seasonal adjust feature to lower the watering amount during cooler months.
- Pressure Regulation:** If you notice misting, it could be high pressure at work. Installing pressure-regulating sprinkler bodies helps maintain optimal pressure, so water goes where it’s needed, not lost into the air.
- Winter Preparations:** The best time for winterizing your system is between the beginning of September and mid-October. A proper winterization prevents freezing damage, saving you from repairs come spring.

### Sprinkler Maintenance Checklist

Give your system a springtime health check-up. Run each zone for two to three minutes to make sure everything is working properly. Many controllers have an automatic test setting just for this reason. Use this checklist to observe the following, then adjust as needed:

- Inspect for any broken, clogged, or misaligned sprinkler heads or nozzles.
- Make sure rotating sprinklers are moving correctly.
- Check that each sprinkler pops up to its full height and isn’t blocked by obstacles like grass or plants.
- Look out for misting, which usually indicates high pressure.
- Confirm that your sprinklers are evenly spaced and provide head-to-head coverage in each zone.
- Assess if sprinklers have the correct arc and throw distance, without overspraying onto pavement.
- Make sure all zones deliver water at the correct rate to avoid over or underwatering.

## Troubleshooting Common Sprinkler Issues

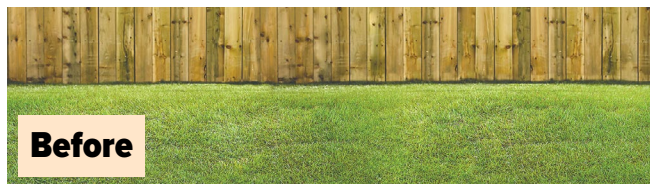
Issue	What To Look For	What To Fix
<b>Broken or damaged sprinkler components</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spewing water</li> <li>Water pooling</li> <li>Water flowing quickly</li> <li>Low pressure</li> <li>Heads that might be trickling</li> <li>Minor sputtering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace broken nozzle or sprinkler body.</li> <li>Replace broken or damaged pipes below the surface.</li> <li>Remove nozzle/filter and clean any debris before replacing.</li> </ul>
<b>Mixed sprinkler equipment within a zone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Different sprinkler nozzles or head types within the same zone. Drip, fixed spray, MSMT, and rotor sprinkler heads should all be placed on separate zones to ensure water is being applied evenly within each zone area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select the most appropriate sprinkler nozzle or head type for the zone and replace any sprinkler equipment that does not match with the selected type.</li> </ul>
<b>Sunken or buried sprinkler heads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heads that are not visible (below ground surface) when the system is off.</li> <li>Heads that cannot spray above the surrounding turf.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dig up the sprinkler head and reset it upright so the top of the nozzle is flush with the ground surface when the system is off.</li> </ul>
<b>Tilted or misaligned sprinkler heads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heads are not upright and aligned perpendicular to the ground.</li> <li>May be indicated by yellowing areas (dry spots) or overthrow onto pavement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dig up sprinkler head and align the body upright and level with the ground surface – this may require the installation of additional soil for support.</li> </ul>
<b>Obstructed sprinkler heads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shrubs, trees, plant limbs, lamp posts, sheds, downspouts, electrical boxes, fences, furniture, toys, and mailboxes are just a few examples of items that might be in the path of sprinkler head’s throw.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove the obstruction if possible or move the head away from the obstruction — turf removal surrounding the obstruction might also be an option if the sprinkler zone is converted to drip irrigation for additional plantings (see landscape makeover pages 16-19).</li> </ul>

### Sprinkler Tips

- When watering by hand, water only in the early morning, not the heat of the day, to minimize evaporation.
- Turn off your sprinklers when it rains or use a rain sensor to do it for you automatically.
- Avoid watering during windy conditions to prevent drift and uneven distribution.
- Keep your grass three to five inches tall to keep the soil cool and retain moisture.
- Try reducing the run time by two minutes for each zone. If your lawn stays green, take off another two minutes.



## Step-by-Step Guide to Transform Your Landscape



Ready to roll up your sleeves and put your new water smarts to work? Use this step-by-step guide to transform your thirsty turf into a colorful, drought-tolerant wonderland. You'll learn how to remove turf, convert overhead spray to drip irrigation, choose water-smart plants, and bring it all together to create a beautiful, water-efficient landscape. Use the City's Turf Removal, Drought-Tolerant Plant, and Drip Irrigation Rebate Programs to get the most bang for your buck (see page 12 for details).

### Step 1: Preparing and Planning

Let's kick things off with some smart planning:

- 1. Location:** Decide where in your landscape you want to make changes. Is it the front yard, backyard, or a specific section?
- 2. Objectives:** Define what you want to achieve with this makeover. Are you aiming for a low-maintenance patio, a functional playspace, a shaded haven, wildlife habitat, or something else?
- 3. Limitations:** Consider any constraints that might affect your project. Are you planning to do it yourself or hire professionals? What's your budget, and your timeline? If you belong to an HOA, you'll want to make sure your project aligns with your neighborhood's covenants.
- 4. Existing Features:** Identify which parts of your existing landscape you want to keep and which you plan to change or remove. Think about slopes, irrigation systems, trees, and any hardscaping elements.

### Step 2: Designing Your Landscape

**Overall Design Approach:** Start thinking big picture, considering both the hardscape (non-living elements like pathways and patios) and the landscape (plants, trees, and green areas). Also, think about how your current irrigation system might fit into your new design. Drawing sketches can help you visualize how each part will come together, especially when planning for water efficiency.

#### Understanding Your Landscape

- **Soil Type:** Knowing your soil type is crucial. Refer to the guide (see page 6) for identifying your soil texture and choosing plants that will thrive in those conditions.
- **Plant Selection:** Your goals—whether you're after continuous blooms, shade, or specific themes like a pollinator garden—will guide your choice of plants. Choosing plants suited for USDA Hardiness Zone 4 or lower ensures they can withstand the local climate. See our plant list starting on page 26.
- **Water-Wise Grouping:** To maximize water efficiency, group plants with similar watering needs together. This prevents over or underwatering and helps every plant get just what it needs.

#### Hardscaping Considerations

- **Permeability:** Opt for permeable paving options like pavers for paths and patios to reduce runoff and enhance water infiltration.
- **Runoff Management:** Implement rain gardens to passively capture and store runoff, turning potential water waste into a resource for your garden.
- **Material Choice:** Avoid impermeable materials like concrete that contribute to runoff, and instead, select materials that allow water to percolate into the soil.

#### Sprinkler Systems

- **Drip Irrigation:** Embrace low-volume drip irrigation systems to minimize water waste. Map out your drip irrigation based on the layout of your new plantings.
- **Design for Your Landscape:** Consider the density and arrangement of your plants. Dense plantings might need a different drip design compared to sparser layouts. You might also explore in-line emitter grid designs for a comprehensive watering solution.
- **System Adaptation:** Assess your existing sprinkler heads. Some may need to be capped or converted to drip irrigation, especially in areas transitioning from lawn to drought-tolerant plantings. Evaluate whether you'll need professional help, especially if your system requires modifications to accommodate lower pressure needed for drip irrigation.

### Step 3: Turf Removal

Transforming your landscape starts with removing your existing turfgrass to make way for drought-tolerant plants. Here's how to do it effectively, keeping in mind that careful planning and execution can help you qualify for the City's Turf Removal Rebate. Check the pre-approval requirements before you begin.



#### Sod Removal Method

This is the simplest, fastest way to tackle turf removal, best done in spring or early summer, early in the growing season.

- 1. Mark the Area:** Decide which part of your lawn you want to remove. Mark the boundaries clearly with a garden hose, string, or any marker that outlines the project space.
- 2. Check with Utilities:** Before you start digging, call 811 to mark the location of any underground lines. Also, flag any sprinkler heads to avoid damaging them.
- 3. Dig a Guide Trench:** Around the edges of your project area, especially near sidewalks or driveways, dig a small trench to guide your sod removal. This helps in areas where a sod cutter might not reach easily.
- 4. Use a Sod Cutter:** Rent a sod cutter (or a garden spade for smaller areas) to slice your lawn into strips. Roll these strips up as you go. It's quick and gets the job done. You can also just grab a shovel, which is just as effective but more time and labor intensive.
- 5. Deal with Removed Turf:** You've got a few disposal options for the turf you remove:
  - **Rent a Dumpster:** Check with the City's Solid Waste Division for a dumpster to dispose of the turf. The size you need will depend on how much turf you're removing.
  - **Compost It:** Turn your old lawn into compost.
  - **Reuse the Soil:** Flip the removed turf upside down for the Sheet Mulching Method. This can take a couple of summers but ultimately kills off the grass and leaves you with usable soil.



#### Sheet Mulching Method

Done over the course of multiple seasons, this method is a gentle way to transition your lawn into a water-efficient garden, ideal for flat or moderately sized areas.

- 1. Outline Your Area:** Decide which part of the lawn you want to change. Mark the borders with something visible, like a garden hose or string, to define your workspace.
- 2. Prep the Lawn:** Mow the lawn as short as possible within the marked area, leaving the clippings on the ground. Give it a good watering once you're done mowing.
- 3. Address Sprinklers:** Find and temporarily disable or adjust any sprinkler heads within the area. You might cap them, turn off their specific zone, or switch them to a drip system. It is usually best to install new drip irrigation prior to installing new plants.
- 4. Layer with Compost:** Spread a generous layer of compost over the cut grass—two to three inches if plant-based. Thoroughly water this compost layer.
- 5. Block Out Light:** Cover the compost with layers of painter's paper, newspaper, or cardboard, overlapping each piece by 6-8 inches to ensure no light reaches the grass below.
- 6. Top with Mulch:** Add a final layer of wood mulch over the paper or cardboard, watering it well to settle everything down.
- 7. Patience Pays Off:** Give the grass underneath time to die off naturally, which may take up to two seasons. During this time, you may need to periodically water the area to encourage turfgrass decomposition. Afterward, the area will be primed for planting your new, drought-tolerant garden.

### Step 4: Planting Preparation

Before you start planting it's wise to prepare your soil. Here are some easy steps:

- 1. **Enrich the Soil:** Mix in organic matter like compost or worm castings. If you've had a soil test, follow the recommendations for amendments. This step is crucial for healthy plant growth.
- 2. **Check Soil Depth:** Your garden needs at least 6 inches of good topsoil for roots to grow. If you're short, it's time to add more!
- 3. **Calculate Soil Needs:**
  - a. First, find out the area you're working with in square feet (SF).
  - b. Decide how many inches deep you want to layer new soil over this area. Convert this depth into feet by dividing by 12.
  - c. Multiply the project area (SF) by the depth in feet to get cubic feet (CF) needed.
- d. Convert cubic feet to cubic yards (CY) by dividing by 27, since 1 cubic yard = 27 cubic feet. This calculation helps you understand how much soil, mulch, or compost you need.
- 4. **Mark Your Sprinklers:** Before you start adding soil or mulch, flag all sprinkler heads in the makeover zone to avoid covering them unintentionally.

### Step 5: Upgrade your Irrigation

With a new landscape plan, don't forget to update your irrigation for your plant and turf needs. You also have options and opportunities to save money when you install new irrigation components.

**Switch to Drip Irrigation:** If you're moving away from a traditional spray system, now is the perfect opportunity to adopt drip irrigation, ideal for nourishing drought-tolerant landscapes efficiently. Drip systems deliver water right to the root zones, making every drop count.

Before starting your drip irrigation conversion, identify the physical boundaries of your irrigation zones. When converting to drip zones, convert entire zones in a single project. This will ensure that all plants within the same zone have similar water needs.

**Essentials for Drip Conversion:**

Many irrigation manufacturers create kits that do all three of the tasks required to convert overhead spray to drip irrigation. A good starting point is to identify the make and model of your spray heads and see if the manufacturer already makes a conversion kit for their product. If they do not, many of the kits are compatible with other manufacturers parts.

Kits should provide you with:

- Filtration device to ensure small openings don't become clogged with fine sediment.
- A pressure regulator to ensure that the drip system, which is designed to work at a lower pressure, is not damaged.
- Materials to convert the spray head into a 1/2" flexible poly pipe, most commonly used for drip irrigation.

Evaluate your new landscape design and identify any sprinkler heads that are no longer needed. These should be capped to prevent water waste, but should still be able to be winterized.

Be sure you have all the necessary tools and materials before beginning your drip system conversion. This proactive approach saves time and avoids interruptions. Documenting the process can help with future troubleshooting and maintenance.

Need help? Upgrading an irrigation system can be complex. If the transition seems daunting or technical issues arise, particularly concerning system pressure adjustments or compatibility with older irrigation setups, consider enlisting the help of a professional. Check out [www.qwel.net/hire-a-qwel-pro](http://www.qwel.net/hire-a-qwel-pro) or scan the QR code at right to find a local qualified water efficient landscaper (QWEL) to help.



QWEL Pros have been trained in efficient irrigation principles and sustainable landscaping practices, and can help to:

- Use water efficiently in your landscape.
- Reduce runoff and overspray.
- Select and install efficient irrigation equipment.
- Develop a water efficient irrigation schedule and program your irrigation controller.

### Step 6: Install your Landscape

**Hardscaping**

Begin with installing any new paths, patios, or other hard structures. Tackling hardscaping first helps avoid damage to plants and soil compaction later on.

**Plant Installation**

- **Timing is Key:** Buy your plants when you have enough time set aside to plant them properly.
- **The Right Hole:** For each plant, dig a hole that's twice as wide as the pot and exactly as deep. This gives roots the room they need to spread out.
- **Planting Time:** Aim for early morning or late evening to avoid midday heat stress on your new plants.
- **Ease Them In:** Carefully remove each plant from its container, loosen the roots, and place it in the prepared hole. Fill the hole partially with soil, water it, then fill it completely with soil and water again.

**Irrigation Check-Up**

Once all plants are in the ground, test your drip irrigation system. Make sure water is reaching all plants, taking special care to check the flow at the end of the line. Adjustments or professional help might be needed if the system isn't covering all areas adequately.

### Step 7: Mulch

See page 7 for the full lowdown on the magic of mulch including free mulch offered by the City of Bozeman.

- **Why Mulch Matters:** Mulch is essential for retaining soil moisture, reducing evaporation, and adding aesthetic appeal to your garden. It helps maintain soil temperature, suppresses weeds, and can contribute to soil health as it breaks down.
- **How Much to Use:** Apply a consistent layer of three inches of mulch around your plants. This thickness is ideal for moisture retention without suffocating plant roots or creating conditions for mold or fungus growth.
- **Choosing Your Mulch:** Opt for natural, untreated wood chips instead of dyed or synthetic options. Arborist wood chips are particularly effective for water retention and add organic matter to the soil as they decompose, enhancing soil health and structure.

### Step 8: Ongoing Care

Your garden's looking gorgeous, but the journey doesn't end here. A well thought-out plan helps maintain plant and soil health, keeps beneficial plants thriving while managing unwanted growth, and ensures efficient watering practices.

- **Regular Maintenance:** Even water wise landscapes need consistent care. Focus on nurturing the plants you want while removing those you don't. Regular upkeep prevents overgrowth and maintains the aesthetic and health of your garden.
- **Mulching for Moisture and Health:** Annually refresh your beds to maintain a three inch layer of organic mulch.
- **Irrigation System Vigilance:** Keep an eye on your irrigation set up to ensure it continues to operate efficiently. Run a two or three minute test cycle on your system once a month to see how it performs. This way you can catch problems while they are still small and easy to fix.
- **Monitoring Soil Moisture:** Keep an eye on the moisture level in your soil to prevent the stress of over or underwatering, which is especially critical for drought-tolerant plants.
- **Weeding Wisely:** Stay on top of weeding to ensure your plants aren't competing for water and nutrients. Regular weeding keeps your landscape neat and healthy. Hand-pulling weeds is often the best approach to avoid disturbing the roots of desirable plants.
- **Pruning Practices:** Prune dormant shrubs and trees to control their shape and remove unhealthy sections. Limit pruning to no more than a third of the plant at a time to avoid stress. Also, deadhead perennials to encourage extended blooming.

**Season-Specific Tips**

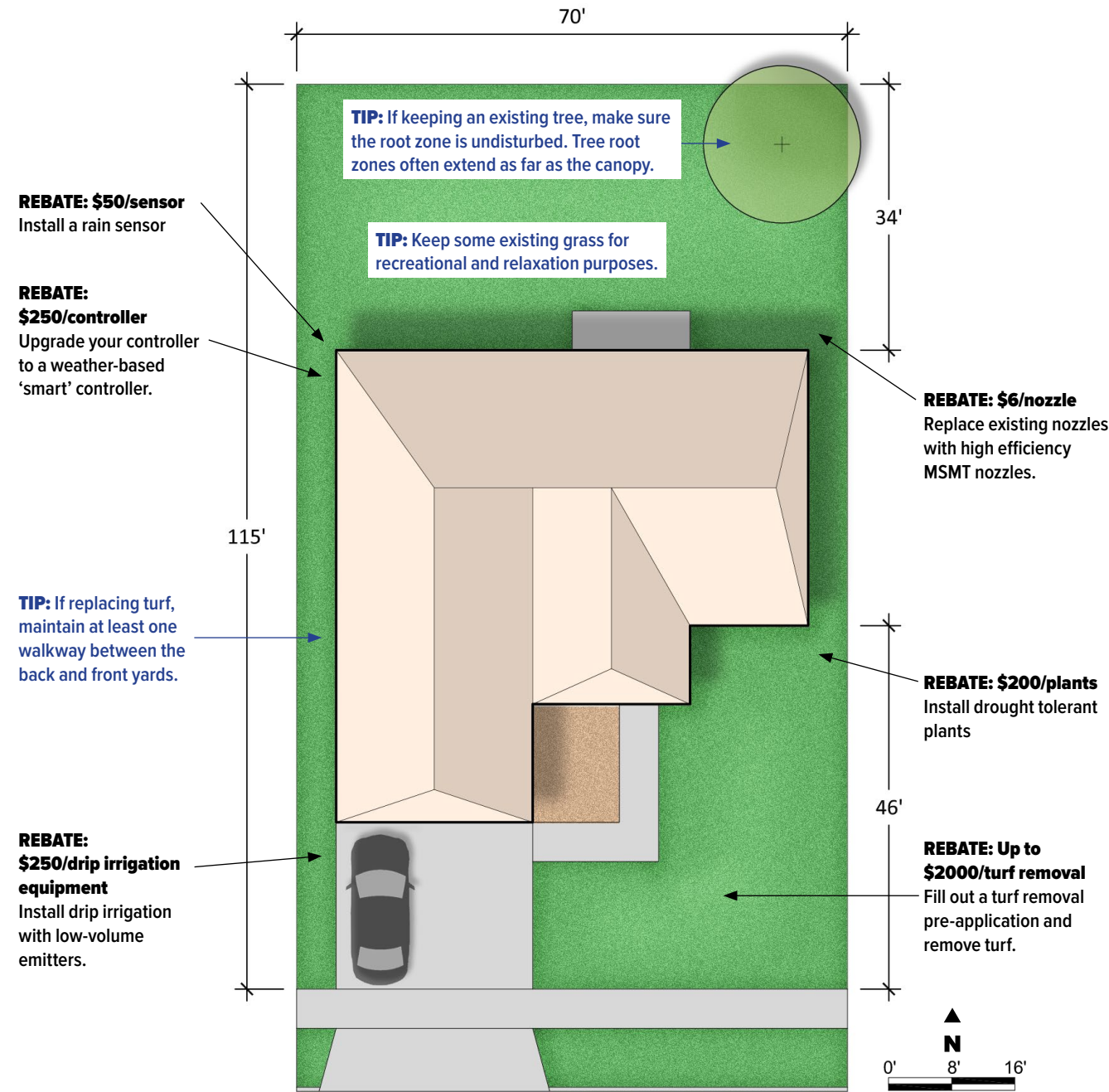
- **Spring:** Kick off with irrigation checks, weeding, and mulching. Early spring is also a good time to prune many woody plants and prepare your landscape for the growing season.
- **Summer:** Adjust watering based on temperature and rainfall. Continue weeding and deadhead perennials to extend their bloom.
- **Fall:** Reduce watering as temperatures cool and winterize your irrigation system. Cut back dormant perennials and add mulch to protect against winter temperatures.
- **Winter:** Plan for next year! It's a great time to evaluate what worked and what you might want to change.

## Water Smart Landscape Retrofit

Now that you've thought through what you want to achieve and have explored the steps to transition your landscape, it's time to get inspired. In this section, we'll show you how to use the City's water conservation rebates and drought-tolerant plants to create a beautiful, water-smart garden.

We'll start with a typical home landscape: mostly turf with a single tree — a common starting point — and show you how to reimagine it into a more sustainable, vibrant space.

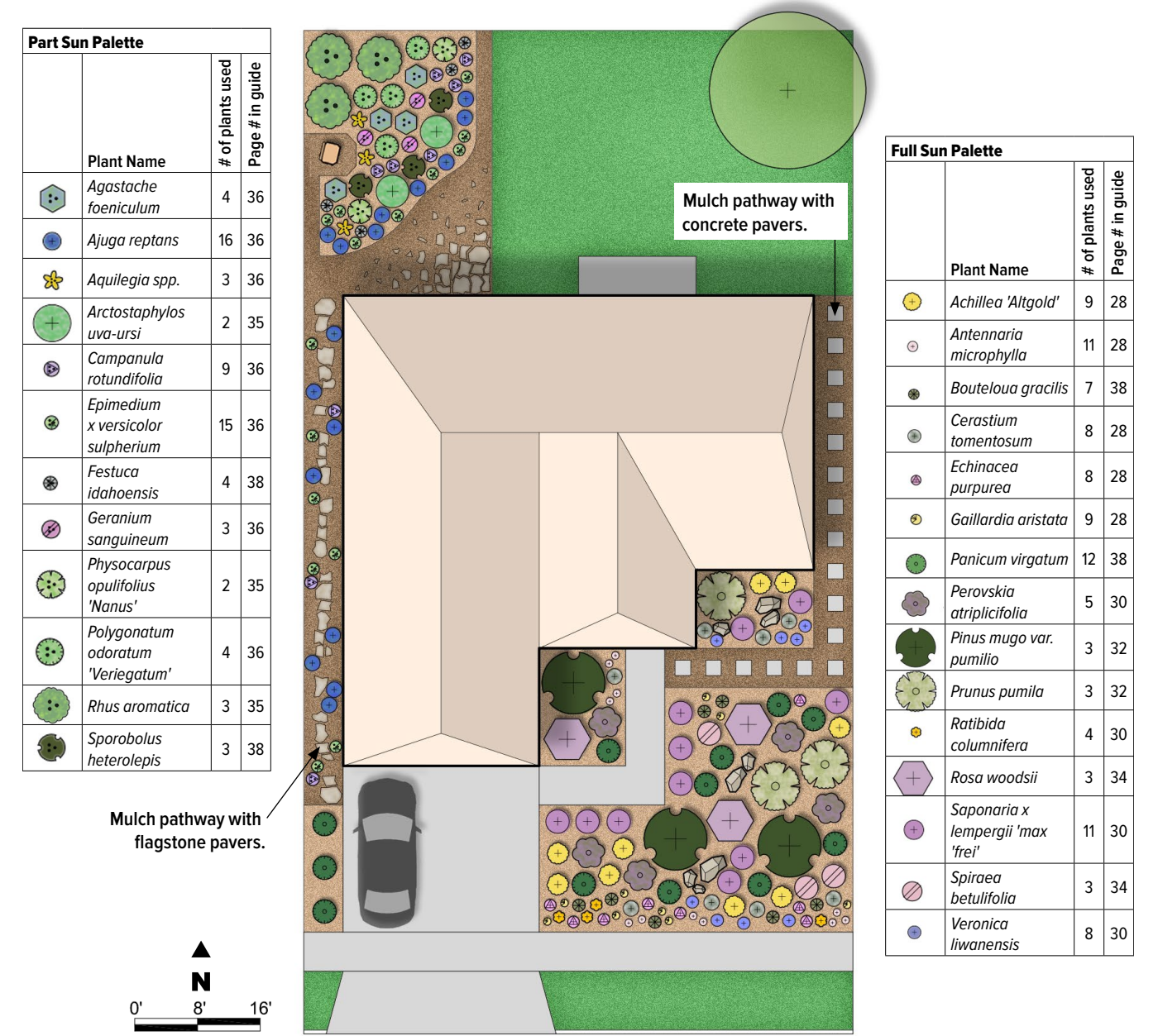
Shown here on this page are tips and rebate recommendations for an irrigation update based on the typical home landscape.



## Landscape Design

This planting design adds interest to the typical home landscape by keeping some existing turf, preserving the existing tree, and adding drought tolerant plants. Flagstone pavers and concrete squares are added to formalize mulch pathways, while boulders help break up the landscaping. A seating area in the backyard brings the resident into their garden. This design is based on the design template on the next page and shows how easy it is to modify the template to fit each site.

Please note the plants species included in this template serve only as a recommendation, but represent drought tolerant plants species that qualify for a rebate with the City of Bozeman. Most of these plants are highlighted in our plant species guide, which can be found on page 27.



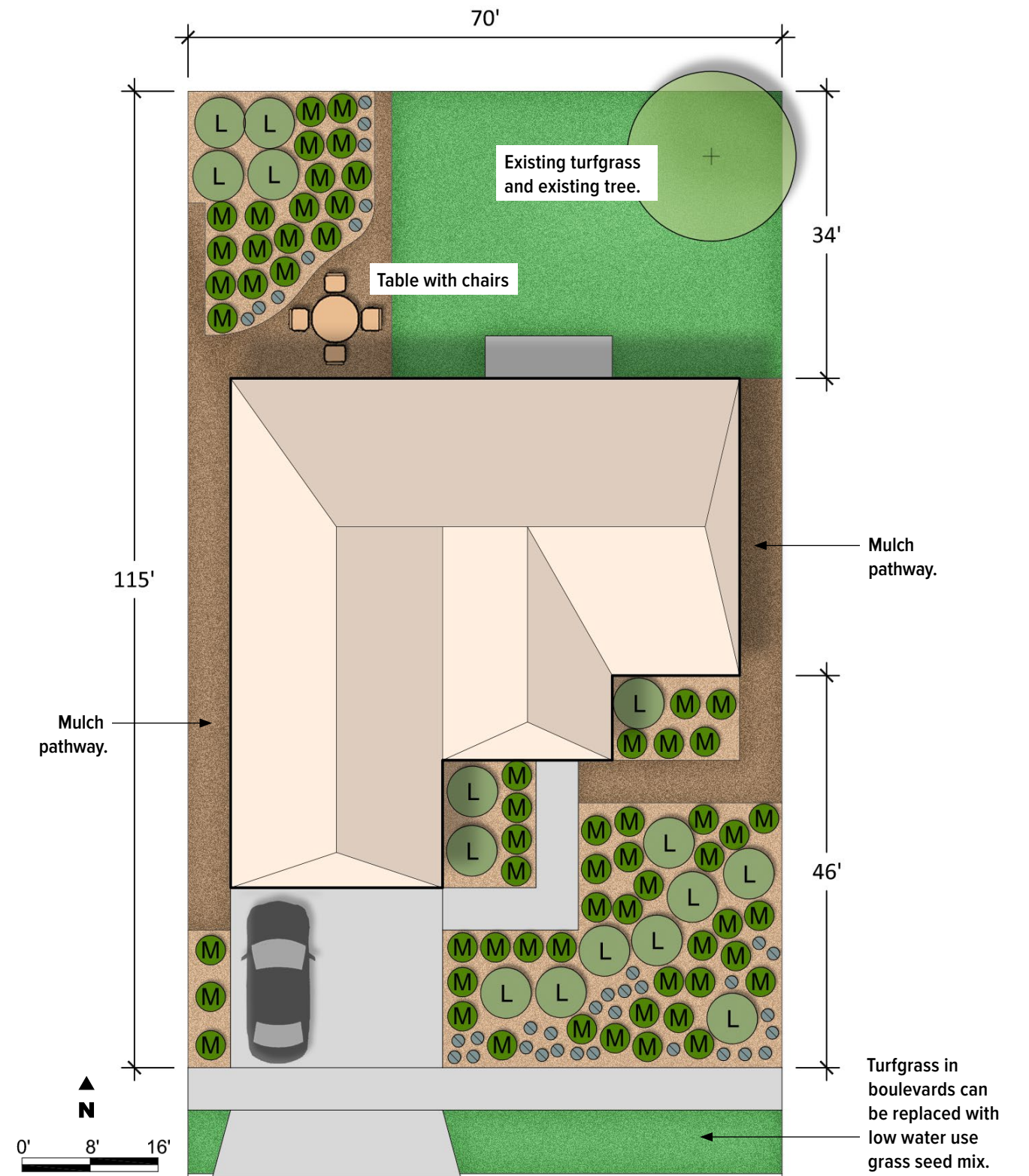
## Design Template

This template is designed to be a starting point for your landscape project and can be easily adapted to suit your site conditions and personal style. Based on the landscape design featured on the previous page, it works well for both retrofits and new construction.

The sample plant list includes many of the same selections from the design, along with a few alternative options for flexibility based on plant size and availability. To make planning even easier, we've included reference page numbers for each plant, as found in the plant guide beginning on page 26.

Full Sun Palette - South and East Sides of Plan 6+ hours of light		
Icon	Plant Name	Page # in guide
<b>Small plant</b> Up to 2' wide  ☉	<i>Antennaria microphylla</i>	28
	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	38
	<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	28
	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	28
	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	28
	<i>Erigeron compositus</i>	28
	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	28
	<i>Geum triflorum</i>	28
	<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>	38
	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	28
	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	30
	<i>Penstemon strictus</i>	30
	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	30
	<i>Veronica liwanensis</i>	30
<b>Medium plant</b> 3'-4' wide  Ⓜ	<i>Achillea altgold</i>	28
	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	38
	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	30
	<i>Saponaria x lempergii 'max frei'</i>	30
	<i>Spiraea betulifolia</i>	34
<b>Large plant</b> Above 5' wide  Ⓛ	<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	32
	<i>Pinus mugo var. pumilio</i>	32
	<i>Prunus pumila</i>	32
	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	32
	<i>Rosa foetida 'Harison's Yellow'</i>	32
	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	32

Part Sun Palette - North and West Sides of Plan 3-6 hours of light		
Icon	Plant Name	Page # in guide
<b>Small plant</b> Up to 2' wide  ☉	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	36
	<i>Aquilegia spp.</i>	36
	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	36
	<i>Epimedium x versicolor sulpherium</i>	36
	<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	38
	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	36
	<i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>	36
	<i>Penstemon procerus</i>	36
	<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i>	36
	<b>Medium plant</b> 3'-4' wide  Ⓜ	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>		35
<i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i>		38
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius 'Nanus'</i>		35
<i>Polygonatum odoratum 'Variegatum'</i>		36
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>		38
<b>Large plant</b> Above 5' wide  Ⓛ	<i>Daphne x burkwoodii</i>	35
	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	35



## Student Design Inspiration

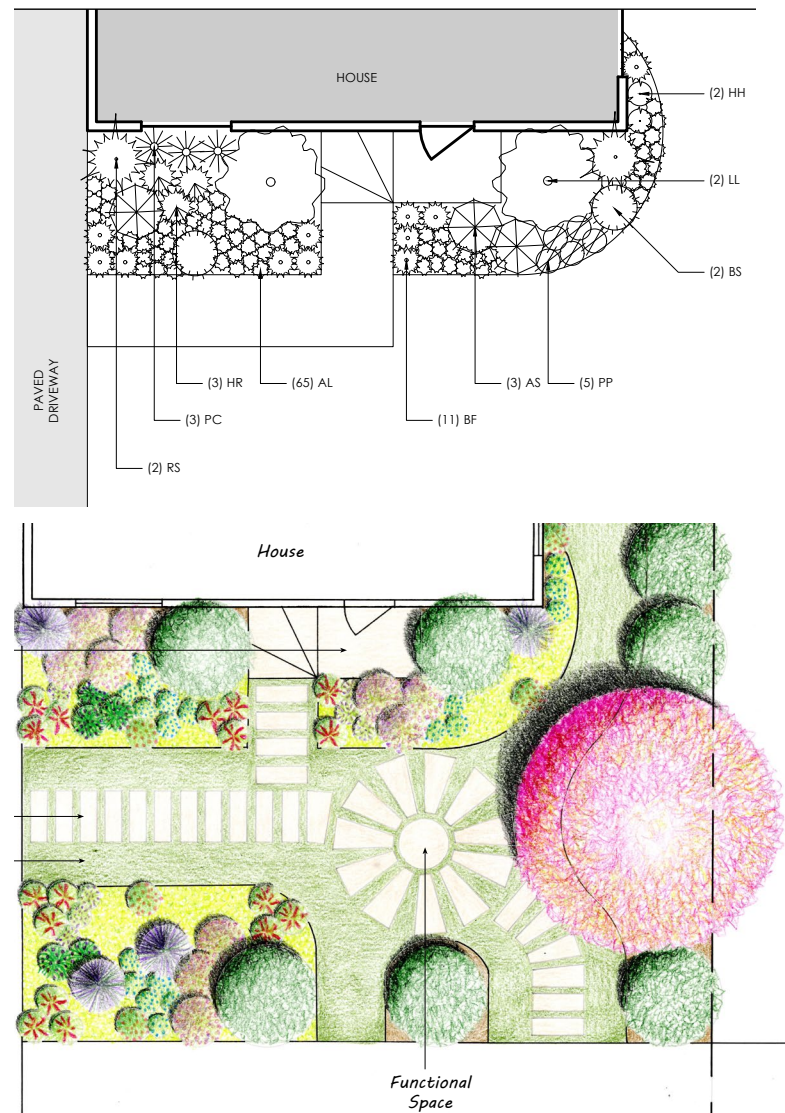
Before getting your hands dirty and while you are planning your own landscape paradise, gather more inspiration from these student designs. These designs were created through a collaboration between the City of Bozeman’s Water Conservation Division and Montana State University’s Landscape Design program and Assistant Professor Kirsten Ostberg. These two designs are conceptual designs for a typical Bozeman front yard with a focus on the use of water wise plants from this guide

### Country Style Garden

Shown on this page is a *Country Style Garden* by MSU student Ryan Armstrong. Ryan describes a country style garden as follows:

*A cozy alternative to many other landscape design styles. Often rectilinear in form, country style gardens combine structure with lush pockets of informal planting. These pockets of heavily planted areas provide separation and are often used to frame spaces or views. Patios and small sections of turfgrass provide space for recreation without being detrimental to the overall aesthetic of the garden. Country style gardens are the perfect extension of the “home”, outside of the house.*

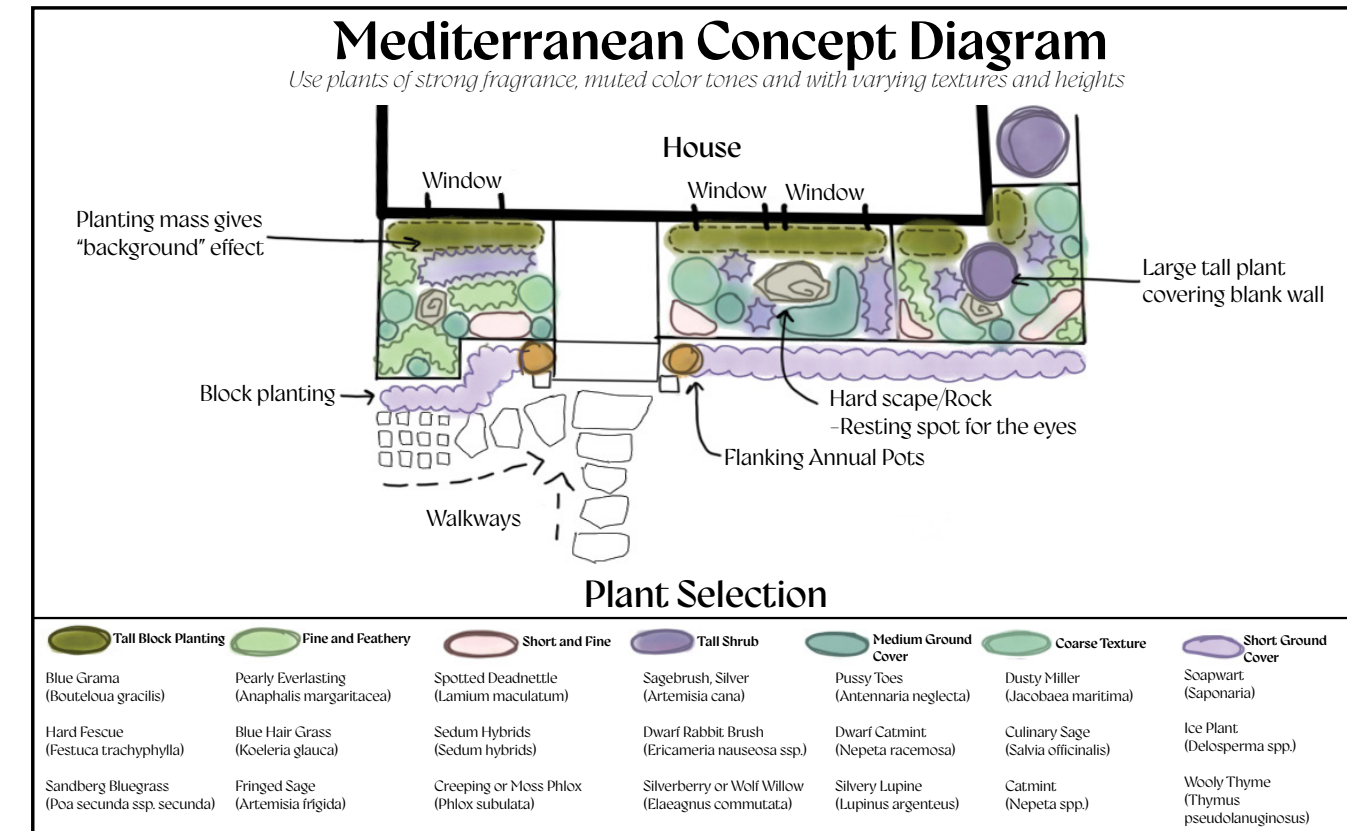
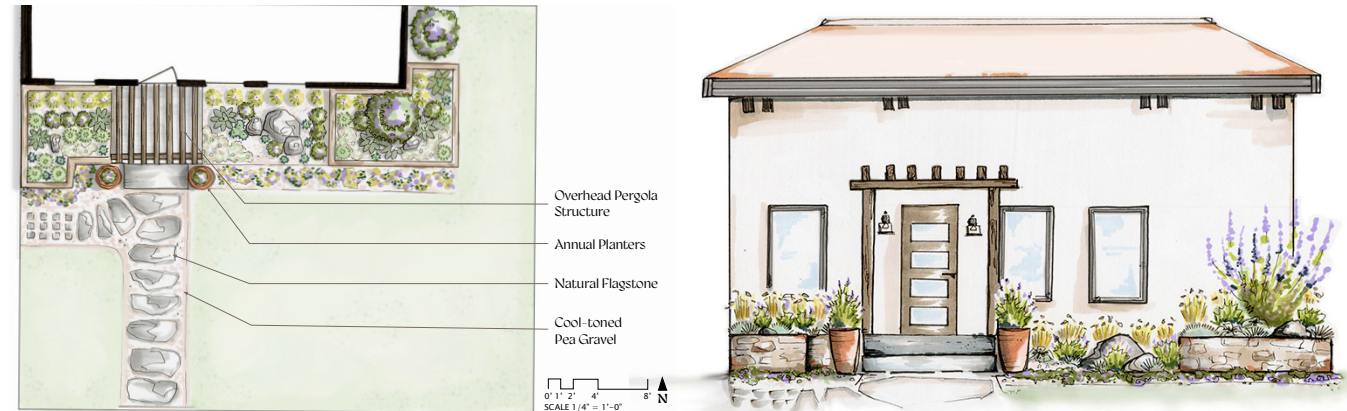
Perennial Planting Schedule				
Symbol	Scientific Name	Common Name	Abbr.	# of Plants
	<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>	Alyssum	AL	65
	<i>Symphoricarum oblongifolium</i>	Aster	AS	3
	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Blanket Flower	BF	11
	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	Buckwheat Sulfur	BS	2
	<i>Alcea hybrids</i>	Hollyhock	HH	2
	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	'Husker Red' Penstemon	HR	3
	<i>Syringa 'Bailbelle'</i>	Tinkerbell Lilac Tree	LL	2
	<i>Penstemon pinifolius</i>	Pineleaf Penstemon	PP	5
	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	PC	3
	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	Russian Sage	RS	2



### Mediterranean Landscape

This is a *Mediterranean Landscape* by MSU student Savannah Moon. Savannah describes this Mediterranean design as follows:

*To incorporate this region’s rugged appeal with the warmth and elegance of Mediterranean aesthetics, this design uses locally sourced materials such as natural stone and weathered wood. Key features include specimen trees, ornamental grasses, herbs and drought tolerant Mediterranean plants like lavender and rosemary. As functional outdoor living is highly celebrated in both cultures, this design uses gravel paths and small moments for socialization like benches, pergolas or fireplaces. Overall, the “Montana-Mediterranean” aims to blend the timeless allure of Mediterranean style with the distinctive beauty and resilience of Montana’s landscape.*





## Plant Lists

### Water Wise Plant Picks

Starting your water wise gardening journey can feel like navigating a maze, especially with the diversity of plant options available at local nurseries. This guide is your compass to designing a yard that's both beautiful and water efficient.

The guide is organized to help you quickly find plants that meet your garden's specific needs. It includes options suitable for full sun, partial sun, and shade, all conveniently categorized into perennials and shrubs. Also listed are ornamental grasses and vines.

## Understanding the Guide

This section introduces you to plants that are champions in conserving water in Bozeman's unique climate. Plants are divided into three main categories:

- **Full Sun**  
(sub-grouped alphabetically as Perennial or Shrub)
- **Part Sun & Shade**  
(sub-grouped alphabetically as Perennial or Shrub)
- **Ornamental Grasses & Vines**  
(listed alphabetically)

### Navigating the Plant Lists

Within each category, you will find:

**Common Name** - The name you are familiar with, and which may have a regional influence.

**Scientific Name** - Standardized name used to precisely identify a species.

**Native to Montana** - These plants adapt to temperature fluctuations, accept native soil conditions, and are usually resilient to our changing local climate. Plus, including native plants on your landscape provides habitat for local pollinators and wildlife in our area.

#### Drought-Tolerant or Water Smart (DT or WS) -

**Drought-Tolerant**—These plants thrive in Bozeman's climate. Once these plants are "established" (which usually takes about two to three growing seasons), they typically won't require extra watering, even during extended dry periods.

**Water Smart**—These plants are resilient and can go without water for a time but will benefit from deep watering during particularly hot and dry spells.

**Pollinator Friendly** - These plants attract both bees and butterflies. Both are important pollinating insects and are crucial to the production of fruits, nuts, and berries.

**Deer-resistant** - These plants are less palatable to deer and less likely to be damaged by nibbling visitors.

**Notes** - The fundamental description of the plant.

## Plant Rebate Guide

### Greenery Givebacks

Transform your garden into a water-efficient paradise and get rewarded! The City of Bozeman's Landscape and Sprinkler System Rebate Program offers cash back for planting drought-tolerant and water smart varieties. **Every shrub, perennial, and grass listed in our guide is rebate-eligible.**

### How to Access Rebates

- **Prepare:** Before you head to the nursery, grab this guide or download the City of Bozeman Drought-Tolerant Plant Rebate Shopping List at [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com). It's your ticket to smart shopping, ensuring you choose plants that are not just beautiful, but also qualify for rebates.
- **Shop within a total budget** of \$100 to \$200 to maximize your rebate potential.
- **Plant:** Get your hands dirty! Plant your new water wise garden residents.
- **Claim Your Rebate:** After installation, submit your rebate application along with your proof of purchase and installation evidence. Then, sit back and wait for your rebate to roll in.
- **Get Started:** All the details, including the shopping list and application, are available at [www.bozemanwater.com](http://www.bozemanwater.com). Just click on the Water Conservation button to find everything you need.

**Happy planting, and enjoy making your garden both beautiful and water smart!**



**Full Sun** ☀ **Perennials** ✨

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native to Montana	DT or WS*	Pollinator Friendly	Deer-Resistant	Notes
<i>Achillea hybrid</i>	Yarrows		WS	●	●	Moonshine is a good cultivar, the native white yarrow is aggressive and can out compete other garden species, over time. All cultivars qualify.
<i>Alcea hybrids</i>	Hollyhocks		DT	●	●	Tall, short lived perennial that reseeds readily, <i>Alcea rugosa</i> is longest lived
<i>Allium spp.</i>	Alliums, Ornamental		WS	●		Most of the ornamental alliums are Water Smart, 'Summer Beauty' is a sterile hybrid
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly Everlasting	●	WS	●	●	Long lived, will form a large mound over time, needs good drainage
<i>Antennaria microphylla and A. rosea</i>	Pussytoes	●	WS		●	Low, silver-leaf, mat-forming groundcover, can take some shade
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterflyweed		DT	●		Bright orange flowers, needs well drained soil, spreads somewhat but not in any way invasive
<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>	Alyssum 'Basket of Gold'		WS	●		Low growing, early yellow blooms, needs good drainage to persist
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	False Indigo		WS	●	●	Large, shrub-like plant, long lived, Lupine-like spikes of blue flowers in spring
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow in Summer		WS	●	●	Low growing, silver foliage, white blooms, spreads
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Coreopsis 'Zagreb'		WS	●	●	Long blooming yellow flower, forms delicate clumps
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Purple Prairie Clover	●	DT	●	●	Magenta spikes above ferny foliage, midseason bloomer
<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Coneflower, Pale Purple		WS	●	●	Great plant for butterflies
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Coneflower, Purple		WS	●		Lots of cultivars available/qualify
<i>Echinops ritro</i>	Globe Thistle		DT	●	●	Tall plant with distinctive deep blue globe shape flowers
<i>Erigeron compositus</i>	Cut-Leaf Fleabane Daisy	●	WS	●		Low mounding with small white daisy-like flowers
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	Buckwheat Sulfur	●	DT	●	●	Forms tight mat over time, 'Kannah Creek' is a good cultivar, other species qualify
<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Blanketflower	●	DT			Long blooming, several cultivars
<i>Geum triflorum</i>	Prairie Smoke	●	WS		●	Low growing, very distinctive feathery seedheads, a common name for this could also be "Old Man's Whiskers"
<i>Iris x germanica</i>	Iris, Bearded		DT	●	●	Can take very dry conditions, need to be divided when they form tight clumps
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Lavender 'Munstead'		WS	●	●	Fragrant flowers and leaves
<i>Liatris punctata</i>	Gayfeather, Dotted	●	DT	●	●	Also known as "Dotted Blazing Star," needs good drainage but once established can be long lived, late blooming

\* **Drought-Tolerant (DT)** - These low maintenance plants need minimal water once they've settled in after a few seasons—perfect for our local climate.  
**Water Smart (WS)** - They can handle dry spells too but perk up with a deep drink during the hottest days.

**Full Sun** ☀ **Perennials** ✨



Alliums, Ornamental



Alyssum 'Basket of Gold'



Aster, 'Dream of Beauty'



Blanketflower



Blue Flax



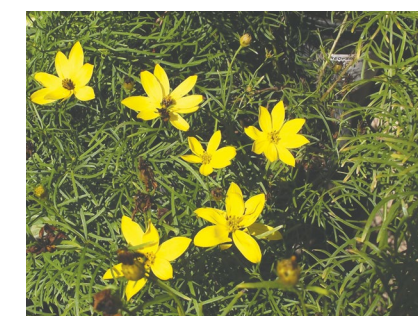
Buckwheat Sulfur



Butterflyweed



Catmints



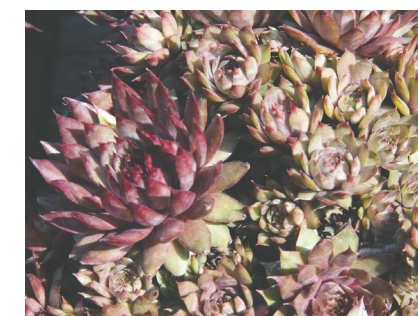
Coreopsis 'Zagreb'



Evening Primrose, Missouri



Gayfeather, Dotted



Hen and Chicks

Full Sun ☀		Perennials ✨				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Native to Montana	DT or WS*	Pollinator Friendly	Deer-Resistant	Notes
<i>Limonium latifolium</i>	Sea Lavender		WS	●		Clouds of fine flowers in mid summer, salt tolerant
<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Blue Flax	●	DT	●	●	Sky blue flowers with semi evergreen foliage, short lived but will reseed
<i>Nepeta x faassenii</i>	Catmints		WS	●	●	Long blooming, likes hot dry places, all species/cultivars qualify
<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>	Gumbo Lily	●	DT	●		Also known as "Evening-Primrose," low growing with fragrant flowers blooms from May through August, can be short lived but reseeds
<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i>	Evening Primrose, Missouri		WS	●		Large yellow flowers in mid summer, low growing
<i>Paeonia spp.</i>	Peonies		WS	●		Even though they might not grow as large or bear as many flowers, this plant can survive without supplemental water! All species/cultivars qualify
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Penstemon 'Husker Red'		WS	●	●	Burgundy-bronze foliage with spikes of whitish flowers, longer lived than most Penstemons
<i>Penstemon pinifolius</i>	Penstemon, Pineleaf		DT	●		Likes good drainage, striking orange blooms later in season, 'Mersea Yellow' has yellow flowers
<i>Penstemon spp.</i>	Penstemons		WS	●	●	Wide range of native Penstemons, important pollinator plant, all species/cultivars qualify
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	Sage, Russian		DT	●	●	Tall plant with silver foliage and lavender like flowers
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Coneflower, Prairie	●	DT	●	●	Upright, airy, mid to late summer blooming, short lived but reseeds
<i>Salvia nemorosa</i>	Sage, Meadow		WS	●	●	Long lived, lots of cultivars
<i>Saponaria lempergii</i>	Soapwort 'Max Frei'		WS	●	●	Low growing, later blooming, soft pink blooms, Saponaria occymoides also included
<i>Sedum spp.</i>	Sedums		WS	●		All species/cultivars qualify, short ground covers and taller plants, succulent leaves
<i>Sempervivum spp.</i>	Hen and Chicks		DT	●		Also known as "Houseleek," many species/cultivars, succulent leaves
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	Lambs Ears		WS		●	Low growing, wooly silver foliage, non-flowering cultivars recommended
<i>Symphyotrichum oblongifolium</i>	Aster, 'Dream of Beauty'		WS	●	●	Forms a wide, tight mound, light pink flowers in fall, needs room
<i>Thymus spp.</i>	Thymes, Creeping		WS	●		Ground covers, ornamental species/cultivars qualify
<i>Veronica liwanensis</i>	Veronica, Turkish		WS	●		Very low growing ground cover, sky blue flowers
<i>Zauschneria garrettii</i>	Scarlet Hummingbird Flower		DT	●		Bright scarlet-orange trumpet flowers bloom mid season through fall, can spread

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**Water Smart (WS)** - They can handle dry spells too but perk up with a deep drink during the hottest days.

Full Sun ☀		Perennials ✨	
			
Hollyhocks	Iris, Bearded	Purple Coneflower	
			
Pearly Everlasting	Penstemons	Penstemon Pineleaf	
			
Peonies	Prairie Smoke	Russian Sage	
			
Sedums	Snow in Summer	Yarrows	

Full Sun ☀		Shrubs 🌿				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Native to Montana	DT or WS*	Pollinator Friendly	Deer-Resistant	Notes
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Serviceberry, Western	●	WS	●		Also called Juneberry, early white flowers, edible berries and red fall color
<i>Artemisia cana</i>	Sagebrush, Silver	●	DT		●	Good all season shrub, somewhat spreading
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	Sagebrush	●	DT		●	Can be pruned over time to keep interesting habitat. Montana subspecies: vaseyana, wyomingensis and tridentata
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Barberries		WS		●	Lots of cultivars, some with red foliage, dense branching
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Caragana, Siberian		DT	●	●	Also known as "Siberian Peashrub," often used as a hedge or windbreak plant, yellow flowers attract hummingbirds
<i>Caragana pygmaea</i>	Caragana, Pygmy		DT	●	●	Fine textured, lower growing caragana, yellow flowers
<i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i>	Mountain Mahogany, Curl Leaf	●	DT		●	Large shrub, likes soils with good drainage
<i>Chamaebatiaria millefolium</i>	Fernbush		DT	●	●	Soft fernlike foliage and white flowers, uncommon but very hardy
<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>	Rabbitbrush, Green or Yellow	●	DT	●	●	Green leaves, prune in early spring to keep compact, fall blooming
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	Rabbitbrush, Dwarf Blue	●	DT	●	●	Also known as "Chrysothamnus nauseosus/Rubber Rabbitbrush", stays dense and low without pruning, fall blooming
<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	Apache Plume		DT	●	●	Very irregular shape, white flowers form silky seed heads that persist all season
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper, Common	●	DT		●	Soft foliage, low spreading form; tolerates part sun and shade
<i>Juniperus spp.</i>	Junipers		DT		●	Many cultivars and species, evergreen foliage
<i>Pinus mugo</i>	Pine, Mugo		WS			Evergreen shrubs, lots of cultivars and sizes
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Potentilla	●	WS	●	●	Long blooming, compact shrub, lots of cultivars
<i>Prunus pumila</i>	Sandcherry, Western		DT	●		Early white flowers in spring and edible berries, 'Pawnee Buttes' is a low growing spreader
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	●	DT	●	●	Tall shrub with white flowers and edible berries, will sucker but can be pruned into multi stem shrub; tolerates part sun and shade
<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Sumac, Trilobe	●	DT			Also known as "Skunkbrush Sumac," stays low in the wild due to grazing, but will grow tall in landscape situations
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Sumac, Staghorn		WS	●		Tall shrub, dramatic, airy structure, red-orange fall color, spreads by root suckers, good on dry slopes
<i>Rosa foetida</i>	Rose 'Harison's Yellow'		WS	●		Often found naturalized in historic landscapes, spreads by root suckers
<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Rose, 'Woods'	●	DT	●		Fragrant, pink flowers, edible rosehips, suckers to form thickets, best in naturalized settings

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Full Sun ☀ Shrubs 🌿



Rose 'Harison's Yellow'



Rabbitbrush, Green or Yellow



Sandcherry, Western



Serviceberry, Western



Spirea Birchleaf 'Tor'



Sumac, Trilobe



Apache Plume



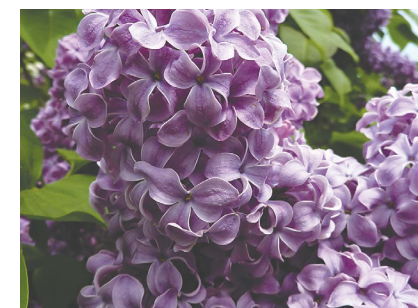
Buffaloberry, Silver



Chokecherry



Kinnikinnick



Lilacs



Mockorange, Lewis

Full Sun ☀		Shrubs 🌿				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Native to Montana	DT or WS*	Pollinator Friendly	Deer-Resistant	Notes
<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>	Buffaloberry, Silver	●	DT	●	●	Large silver leaf shrub, orange berries on female plants, thorny
<i>Spiraea × vanhouttei</i>	Spirea 'Bridalwreath'		WS	●		Cascading white flowers in spring, orange fall color
<i>Spiraea betulifolia</i>	Spirea Birchleaf 'Tor'	●	WS	●		Smaller shrub with white flowers and orange fall color
<i>Syringa spp.</i>	Lilacs		WS	●	●	Many cultivars and species, fragrant flowers; tolerates part sun and shade
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Viburnum Wayfaring Tree		WS	●	●	White flower clusters, blue to black berries, velvety leaves
<i>Yucca glauca</i>	Yucca, Great Plains	●	DT	●		Also known as "Soapweed Yucca," very drought-tolerant, will form colonies



Fernbush



Golden Currant



Juniper, Common

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Part Sun ☀		Shrubs 🌿				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Native to Montana	DT or WS*	Pollinator Friendly	Deer-Resistant	Notes
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinnikinnick	●	WS		●	Low spreading groundcover, one of our only broadleaf evergreens; prefers full sun but tolerates shade
<i>Caragana frutex</i>	Russian Caragana		DT			Can be frost damaged if there is a late frost. Some report suckering habit.
<i>Cotoneaster lucidus</i>	Cotoneaster, Peking		WS		●	This tall shrub is usually hedged, black berries and glossy foliage; tolerates part sun and shade
<i>Daphne x burkwoodii</i>	Daphne 'Carol Mackie'		WS	●		Can also take sun, dense branching, short mounding shrub
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Oregon Grape	●	WS	●	●	Holly-like foliage, somewhat evergreen, foliage can brown over winter but pruning will renew; tolerates part sun and shade
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Mockorange, Lewis	●	WS	●		Fragrant white flowers, taller, several good cultivars
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius 'Nanus'</i>	Dwarf Ninebark		DT			Compact ninebark variety. Makes a good short hedge.
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Sumac 'Gro-Low'		DT			Also known as "Fragrant Sumac," nice low growing shrub, shiny green leaves in summer, turning red and orange in fall; tolerates part sun and shade
<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	Currant, Greenmound		WS			Also known as "Mountain Current," likes afternoon shade, variegated foliage and fragrant pink flowers in early spring
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden Currant	●	DT	●		Can be pruned into a medium height hedge, early blooms benefit pollinators, edible berries; tolerates part sun and shade



Currant, Greenmound



Daphne 'Carol Mackie'



Oregon Grape



Sumac 'Gro-Low'

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Part Sun ☀		Perennials 🌸				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Native to Montana	DT or WS*	Pollinator Friendly	Deer-Resistant	Notes
<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Anise Hyssop	●	WS			Fragrant foliage. Readily self sows. Needs good drainage.
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugleweed		WS			Many cultivars. Mat forming.
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	Alpine Lady's Mantle		WS			Chartreuse flower sprays. Average soils, well drained.
<i>Aquilegia spp.</i>	Columbines Assorted		WS	●		All species and cultivars qualify, except canadensis
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	Heartleaf Bergenia		WS			Tolerates both moist and dry soils. Semi-evergreen. Many cultivars.
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebells	●	WS	●	●	Forms colonies, delicate blue flowers
<i>Epimedium x versicolor sulpherium</i>	Barrenwort, Bishops Hat		WS		●	Mainly a foliage plant, this species is hardy in Montana, good groundcover under trees
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Cranesbill		WS	●		Clump forming spreader. Bright magenta pink flowers.
<i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>	Sticky Geranium	●	WS	●		Deep pink blooms attract many pollinators. Keep dry to prevent sprawling growth.
<i>Heuchera cylindrica and H. rotundifolia</i>	Alumroot, Roundleaf	●	WS	●	●	Spikes of creamy flowers attractive to hummingbirds
<i>Heuchera sanguinea</i>	Coral Bells 'Snow Angel'		WS	●	●	Interesting variegated foliage
<i>Heuchera spp.</i>	Coral Bells		WS	●	●	Many species and cultivars, 'Firefly' attractive to hummingbirds
<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	False Solomon Seal	●	WS			Good in dry shade. Spread by rhizomes to form loose
<i>Penstemon procerus</i>	Penstemon, Little Flower	●	WS	●		Mat forming, early bloom, longer lived than most
<i>Polygonatum odoratum 'Variegatum'</i>	Variegated Solomon Seal		WS			Rhizomatous, forms colonies. Can take dry periods.
<i>Pulsatilla patens</i>	Pasqueflower	●	WS	●	●	One of the earliest bloomers, Crocus-like flowers, silky seedheads, good foliage the rest of season
<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i>	Pasqueflower, European		WS	●	●	Same characteristics as native, larger growing

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Part Sun ☀ Perennials 🌸



Bloody Cranesbill



Bugleweed



Columbines Assorted



Columbines Assorted



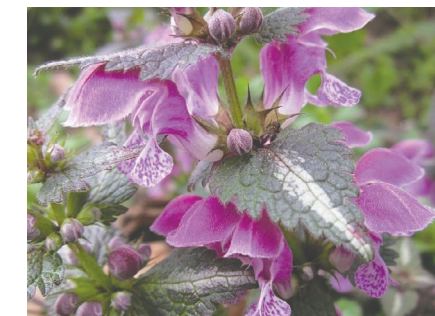
Coral Bells 'Snow Angel'



Heartleaf Bergenia



Harebells



Lamiums



Penstemon Little Flower



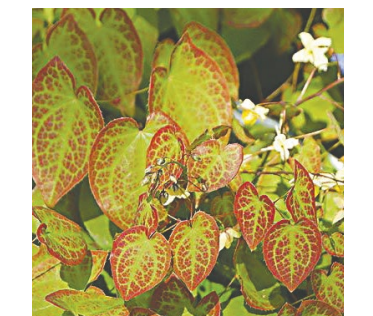
Pasqueflower



Alumroot, Roundleaf



Anise Hyssop



Barrenwort, Bishops Hat

Full Sun ☀️		Ornamental Grasses				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Native to Montana	DT or WS*	Pollinator Friendly	Deer-Resistant	Notes
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem	●	DT		●	Tall, erect bunchgrass, may turn reddish to bronze in fall
<i>Andropogon scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem	●	DT		●	Greens up later in spring, red fall color
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Side Oats Grama	●	WS		●	Distinctive seedhead
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Blue Grama	●	DT		●	Forms dense tufts with unique one-sided seedheads, 'Blonde Ambition' is a great option if you are in need of a taller cultivar
<i>Elymus cinereus</i>	Basin Wildrye	●	WS			Can get floppy with moisture.
<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>	Blue Oatgrass		WS		●	Blue foliage color, large bunchgrass, needs space
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Prairie Junegrass	●	DT		●	Shorter growing bunchgrass, blooms early
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	●	WS		●	Several cultivars, tall and upright, seed heads appear later in season
<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>	Alkalai Sacoton	●	DT			Warm season grass. Best in lean, well drained soils.

Part Sun 🌞		Ornamental Grasses				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Native to Montana	DT or WS*	Pollinator Friendly	Deer-Resistant	Notes
<i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i>	Feather Reedgrass		WS		●	Several cultivars, tall upright
<i>Festuca glauca</i>	Fescue, Blue		WS		●	Tidy blue clump throughout the summer, all cultivars qualify
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Fescue 'Siskiyou Blue'		DT		●	Blue foliage
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed		WS		●	Lower growing clump, fine foliage, airy seedheads

Full Sun ☀️		Vines				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Native to Montana	DT or WS*	Pollinator Friendly	Deer-Resistant	Notes
<i>Clematis tangutica</i>	Clematis, Golden		WS	●	●	Prolific flowers and lacy seed heads, can reseed itself
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Hops		WS	●		Yellow-green flowers with papery cone-shaped fruits, lots of cultivars
<i>Lonicera reticulata</i>	Honeysuckle Kintzley Ghost		WS	●	●	Very full and fast growing, yellow flowers and blue-green foliage
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper		WS		●	Clings to fences and masonry, red fall foliage. Can tolerate part shade.
<i>Vitis hybrid</i>	Grape		WS			'Valiant' hardy cultivar, edible berries

\* **Drought-Tolerant (DT)** - These low maintenance plants need minimal water once they've settled in after a few seasons—perfect for our local climate.  
**Water Smart (WS)** - They can handle dry spells too but perk up with a deep drink during the hottest days.

Full Sun ☀️		Ornamental Grasses				
						
Blue Grama	Little Bluestem	Alkalai Sacoton				
						
Prairie Junegrass	Switchgrass	Basin Wildrye				

Part Sun 🌞		Ornamental Grasses				
						
Fescue, Blue	Fescue 'Siskiyou Blue'	Prairie Dropseed				

Full Sun ☀️		Vines				
						
Clematis, Golden	Virginia Creeper	Hops				

# Track your water use and save money with Dropcountr.

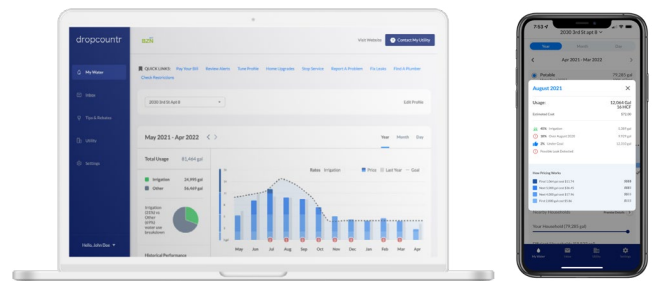


**Did you know your sprinkler system can use more water in a week than your family uses inside your home in a month? Making small adjustments to your sprinkler system run time can result in big adjustments to your water bill.**

Dropcountr is a FREE water use portal for tracking home water usage, brought to you by the City of Bozeman.

## With Dropcountr, you can:

- Compare your water use to similar homes
- Receive personalized water-saving goals
- Monitor your water cost by rate tier
- Get custom tips to save water and money



Dropcountr will provide water efficiency goals based upon the watering needs of your landscape. It's simple:

- Select "sprinkler system" in your Dropcountr profile
- Set your parcel size and the percent of your property that is irrigated
- A water use goal for your property will be displayed
- The goal will adjust each month based on temperature, precipitation, and your lawns watering needs.

**Download for free from your device's app store or get started at [www.dropcountr.com/bozeman](http://www.dropcountr.com/bozeman). Call 406-582-3220 for more information.**

