Tips

• Turning off the water to your lawn is not a good way to kill the grass. Bermuda lawns can have very deep root systems, which can continue to live for years on rain alone.

• Covering the grass with black plastic and granite is not recommended as a method to kill or control the grass. The plastic eventually breaks down and tears, leaving the landscape unsightly and difficult to clean up.

• Do not use a soil sterilizer or complete vegetation killer. These chemicals can travel through the soil and kill desirable plants.

• You may need to use a selective herbicide (one that kills grass only) if grass is growing close to desirable plants.

• Use a water-soluble colorant so you can detect where you have already sprayed. Walk backward while applying herbicide to avoid tracking to unintended areas.

• Before installing your new landscape, dig out two to four inches of dead grass and/or soil next to hardscaped areas (sidewalks, patios, decking, driveways, etc.) to prevent crushed rock or decomposed granite from spilling onto patios or walkways.

• Using the appropriate adaptors, grass sprinkler systems can be easily converted to drip systems.

For More Information

City of Avondale
Water Conservation Office
Phone: 623-333-4400
TTY: 623-333-0010
www.avondale.org

City of Chandler
Water Conservation Office
Phone: 480-782-3580
TTY: 800-367-8939
www.chandleraz.gov

Town of Gilbert
Water Conservation Office
Phone: 480-503-6098
TTY: 480-503-6080
www.ci.gilbert.az.us

City of Glendale
Water Conservation Office
Phone: 623-930-3596
TTY: 623-930-2197
www.glendaleaz.com

City of Goodyear
Water Management Department
Phone: 623-932-3010
TTY: 623-932-6500
www.goodyearaz.gov

City of Mesa
Water Conservation Office
Phone: 480-644-3306
TTY: 480-644-2778
www.cityofmesa.org

City of Peoria
Utilities, Water Conservation
Phone: 623-773-7286
TTY: 623-773-7221
www.peoriaaz.com

City of Phoenix
Water Conservation Office
Phone: 602-261-8367
TTY: 602-534-1113
www.phoenix.gov

City of Scottsdale
Water Conservation Office
Phone: 480-312-5650
TTY: 480-312-5419
www.scottsdaleaz.gov

City of Tempe
Water Conservation Office
Phone: 480-350-2668
TTY: 480-350-8400
www.tempe.gov

Arizona Municipal Water Users Association
Phone: 602-248-8482
www.amwua.org

Alternative formats available by contacting the cities listed.

amwua
arizona municipal water users association
Regional Water Conservation Program

Published by the Cities of Avondale, Chandler, Glendale, Goodyear, Mesa, Peoria, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe, and the Town of Gilbert, working together as the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association.

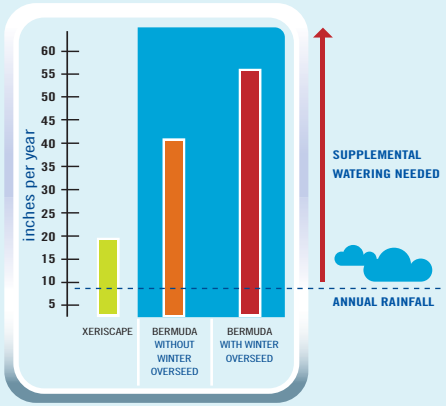
Good Reasons to Take Out Your Grass

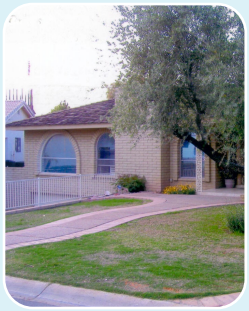
Would you prefer lower water bills and less yard work to worry about? Do you have an old, tired lawn that seems to require more and more effort to maintain? Is the only time you walk on your lawn when you mow it? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to consider making the **switch to water-saving Xeriscape**.

How Much Water
Will You Save?

The average conversion to a **Xeriscape can save 50% or more** on your outdoor water use.

A **bermuda or bermuda hybrid** lawn requires more than 55 inches of water per year (with winter overseed) and over 40 inches per year (without winter overseed). The average Xeriscape requires less than 18 inches per year. Compare with our average rainfall of 8 inches.





BEFORE

AFTER

Before You Start,
Have a Good Plan

Creating a plan will help you tailor your landscape to meet your needs, your tastes and your checkbook. It also keeps you from making costly mistakes! Need some help in planning your new landscape? Ask your local water conservation office for free how-to booklets.

Getting Rid of the Grass

Bermudagrass is an aggressive grass that can be extremely difficult to get rid of, which is one reason it does so well in our desert climate. After months of appearing dead, bermudagrass can spring back to life when water is applied. The most effective way to eradicate it is by the careful use of the proper herbicide.

• **WHAT TO USE:** The most effective herbicides for killing bermudagrass contain the chemical glyphosate. This chemical is sold under many different brand names such as DOOMSDAY™, KLEENUP™, or ROUNDUP™. Glyphosate is not a long-lived or persistent chemical. It is a systemic herbicide that is absorbed through the leaves and travels to the roots and is not effective when applied to the soil.

• **WHEN TO TREAT:** June through September is the best time to get rid of bermudagrass. At this time, the daytime temperatures are above 80 degrees and the grass is growing vigorously, which is necessary for the herbicide to work effectively.

• **HOW TO APPLY:** Before applying herbicide, fertilize and water the grass to make it grow. The herbicide is only effective when the grass is green and actively growing.
Do not scalp or mow the grass at this time.

• **CAUTION!** Choose a windless day to apply the herbicide. Carefully mix and spray the product by following the directions on the container. Spray the grass and take particular care not to get the spray on any desirable plants. Use cardboard or plastic to shield plants in tight areas. It is best to spray in the early morning hours.
Wait 24 hours to resume normal watering to prepare for the second application.

• **BE PATIENT!** Allow 10-14 days for the herbicide to work. It will. It takes up to two weeks for the lawn to turn brown. More than one application of the herbicide is usually needed, so begin the process again by turning the water back on to see what grows back. **Repeat a second application of herbicide on the areas where re-growth appears.**

Two weeks after the second spraying, scalp the lawn with a mower set very low. If the dead grass is very thick, you may need to use a power rake to thin it out. **Take off as much grass as possible. You may need to spot treat any areas where grass returns (once a month).**

Alternative Methods

Remember bermudagrass is invasive and very persistent. Other methods such as solarizing, vinegar sprays, smothering, digging out, tilling or use of sod cutters may be more difficult and have a lower success rate. Some of these methods may be more effective when used together.