

Ripple Effect # 51 - Planning Your Yard for Efficient Water Use

It's almost spring. You may be thinking of ways to remodel your yard—or even planning a whole new landscaping. And although spring melting promises abundant water for now, you know that hot summer days lie ahead.

So how can you plan to get your yard through those summer dry spells—and still be an efficient water user? Here are a few techniques that can help:

--Keep catching snow in mind when you add a structure or plantings to your yard. That way you can get a better start with that great spring moisture. And use your summer growth to catch snow for the next year!

--Place new plantings in zones according to water needs. This way, you won't have to over-water plants that don't need it in order to water heavier water users.

--Use available shading or shielding from trees and structures in your yard for plants that have high moisture requirements or prefer shade. Remember to use the east side to avoid the intense afternoon sunlight.

--Finally, wherever possible, use mulching to retain water in the soil.

Your water-efficient planning today can make a difference to others in years to come!

This Ripple Effect is brought to you by the Red River Basin Commission.