

## **Xeriscape Garden.**

I recently had a short three day break from Sydney and one of the places I visited was the fabulous Eurobdalla Regional Botanic Gardens situated a short drive off the Princes Highway south of Bateman Bay. For those of you that have not visited the gardens it displays only the flora of the NSW South Coast and adjacent ranges. It is 42ha in size and the development commenced in 1988. It has a modern visitors information centre which provides: information, plant sales, herbarium and light refreshments and lunch. As well, there are extensive walking trails and display gardens on various themes.

There latest garden that they have added and the reason I am writing this article is the **Xeriscape Garden**. The word Xeriscape is a merging of the Greek word 'xeros', meaning dry, with the word landscape. It was coined in Colorado USA in 1981 and is pronounced 'Zerascape'. There display garden is planted with drought tolerant local Australian native plants. They have display areas each showing various native grasses and types of mulches that can be used. As well they have a large area landscaped to give you ideas of what you can achieve in your garden.

The Xeriscape fundamentals outlined by Xeriscape Colorado Inc are:

- Planning and designing for water conservation
- Create practical turf areas of appropriate grasses
- Selecting low water requiring plants and group plants of similar water needs together
- Use soil amendments ... like compost
- Use mulches to reduce evaporation
- Irrigate efficiently
- Maintain the landscape properly by weeding, pruning, fertilising and mowing.

This type of garden is one we should all consider as the days of unlimited cheap water are fading fast and we need to change our gardening style to suit this.

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