

# Xeriscaping Success: The 5-Step Launch Checklist

*A Practical Guide to Establishing Native Landscapes*

## Step 1: Soil & Site Analysis

- **Conduct a pH Test:** Is your soil acidic, neutral, or alkaline? (Use a NPK kit).
- **Perform a Percolation Test:** Dig a hole, fill with water, and measure drainage speed to identify "wet feet" zones.
- **Map Sun Exposure:** Identify areas with 6+ hours of direct sun (Full Sun) vs. dappled shade.

## Step 2: Plant Selection & Sourcing

- **Verify Native Ecotypes:** Ensure plants were grown from local Canadian seeds, not imported clones.
- **Check Moisture Regimes:** Group plants by water needs (Hydro-zoning).
- **Select Structural Shrubs:** Choose at least 2 windbreak species to reduce evapotranspiration.

## Step 3: Planting Strategy

- **Autumn Timing:** Schedule planting between late August and mid-September if possible.
- **Mycorrhizal Inoculation:** Apply beneficial fungi to the root ball during transplanting.
- **Bare-Root Preparation:** If using bare-root stock, soak roots for 2 hours before planting.

## Step 4: Irrigation Infrastructure

- **Install Drip/Soaker System:** Set up lines directly at the root zone to minimize evaporation.
- **Program Smart Controller:** Sync your system with local weather data to skip watering during rain.

## Step 5: Post-Planting Maintenance

- **Mulch Application:** Apply 3-4 inches of organic wood chips, leaving a gap around tree trunks.

- **Deep Soak Schedule:** Set a timer for one heavy weekly soak (6-8 gallons per sq yard) rather than daily misting.