

Individual Turf Conversion Incentives for Homeowners

The Desert Water Agency (DWA) is again offering a 3\$ per square foot rebate for homeowners who wish to add desert landscape to the exclusive use areas surrounding our homes. The City of Palm Springs will add another \$3 per s/f until their \$250,000 fund runs out. The sooner you apply, the better. City funds may run out.

The DWA handles both rebates so you will only deal with the DWA. Please note, this is a REBATE. Therefore you pay a licensed landscaper for the work done, and with the proper paperwork the DWA will reimburse you. **Projects must be completed by 3/31/2023.**

In order to maintain continuity throughout the Fairways our next conversion project will involve the five (t) feet of turf adjacent to our street curbs to be completed in the second half of 2023. Therefore your **individual conversions must stop five feet away from the street curb**. This will give our streets one continuous look and enhance our value.

Our Landscape Committee will assist you in completing the necessary paperwork to initiate and complete your project. The easy steps follow:

Step #1

Complete a Landscape Change Application. Available on our website: fairways.com. Add a not-to-scale drawing, list of proposed plants, and approximate number of square feet of turf being removed.

Please note: Only California Gold DG is allowed. Only city of Palm Springs approved desert plants are allowed. **Again, not closer to the curb than 5 feet.**

Include a quote from a licensed landscaper for all work except irrigation changes which must be done by either Exceptional Landscape (442.202.5366) or ConserveLandcare (760.343.1433.) Submit this to Desert Management (Rhianna Beverly) in our on-site office M/W/F from 8 AM until noon.

Step #2

Log on to DWA.Org. Click on Conservation, then Grass Removal, then Homeowners. Start application. This will initiate a onsite visit to your property to determine the actual Square footage and set aside funds for your rebate.

**VERY IMPORTANT! DO NOT START YOUR PROJECT
UNTIL YOU RECEIVE AN APPROVAL LETTER FROM THE DWA!**

Once you have the DWA and The Fairways HOA approval complete your project and submit your landscaper's paid bill to the DWA for your rebate check.

Remember, the Fairways Landscape Committee is available to help you complete your project.

Desert Landscaping tips from the City of Palm Springs

Desert landscape is best when plants are randomly spaced. Do not overplant. For a more natural look, less is more. Integrate boulders to break up the monotony of decomposed granite

The entire proposed area should NOT be filled with plants! Create clusters of the same plants to create visual interest. Cluster of plants also reduce additional irrigation.

More of the same few plants is better than just one or two of many different plants.

Around the back edges of open spaces use taller plants like Texas Ranger, Muhley Grass which can grow 4 feet wide and 4 feet tall. These need to be cut down low in the spring to insure proper growth and wonderful flowers each summer. Firecracker Plants can grow to 4x4 ft tall and wide. These also need to be trimmed back each spring.

Vary the mature height of plants. Use a mixture of a few tall, medium, and low plants. Dwarf lantana is a good example of a lot plant and will spread over a wide area.

Use lowest plants closest to the street, then medium high plants followed by the tallest plants closest to your unit.

Use Tecoma Stans (yellow bells) sparingly and keep them toward the back of the property. They grow very large and can be trained to grow into tree height. Ocotillo are wonderful tall "statement" plants. Succulents and cacti add interest but some, like aloes, are quite invasive.

Blue Century Plants (Agave Americana) are beautiful stand alone feature plants. They will be very tall at maturity so should be planted towards the back of your landscape. Barrel cactus are also beautiful feature plants that are best closer the front of your unit.

Many shrubs and ornamental grasses will grow over 4 feet high and 4 feet wide at maturity. Bougainvilla can grow up 40 feet high and 40 feet wide. If planted, plan on keeping them under control with constant pruning. Ground covers are not recommended in small areas.

To add color there are many desert friendly perennials.

To research any plants the Fairway's Clubhouse has a colorful reference book called *Lush & Efficient Desert-Friendly Landscaping in the Coachella Valley.*