

Catch the Big Drips

Tips for Creating a Sustainable and Drought Resilient Landscape

Adapted from A Guide to Saving Water in the Home Landscape, developed by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Oklahoma State University

Determine your soil texture.

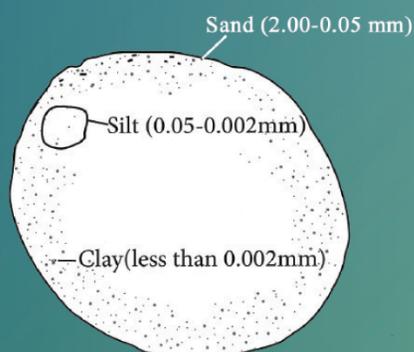
Sandy soil feels gritty and will not stay in a ball. Water drains quickly from this type of soil due to its large pore spaces.

Loam soil feels partly gritty and partly smooth. This type of soil forms a ball that breaks easily when squeezed and has a high water holding capacity.

Clay soil feels smooth and sticky. This type of soil drains water more slowly than sandy soils.

Choose the right turfgrass.

Select a turfgrass that is well adapted to Oklahoma's variable temperature and moisture. Selecting the appropriate turfgrass will reduce soil erosion and save water.



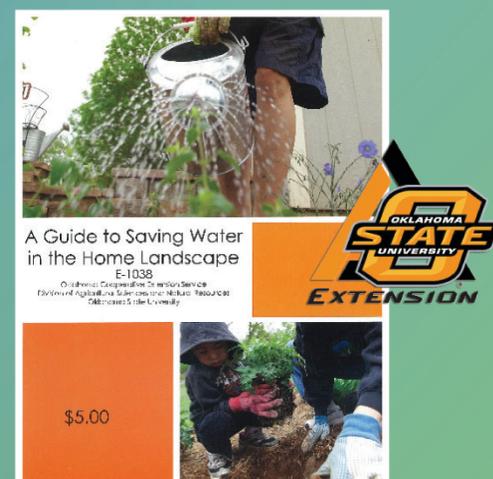
Relative size of sand, silt, and clay particles



Knead soil between your fingers to determine texture.



Screwdriver does not easily pass through dry soil.



www.oces.okstate.edu

Check soil moisture before watering.

Use a screwdriver to check soil moisture before watering; if it goes in easily, do not water. Soil may appear dry on the surface but moisture may be sufficient throughout the soil profile.

TURFGRASS	REGION	SUN REQUIREMENTS	DROUGHT RESISTANCE	HEAT TOLERANCE	IRRIGATION REQUIREMENTS
Warm-Season Turfgrass					
Bermudagrass	Statewide ¹	Full sun	Excellent	Excellent	Low
Buffalograss	Central, Western	Full sun	Excellent	Excellent	Low
St. Augustinegrass	Southern along Red River	Full sun to light shade	Good	Excellent	Medium
Zoysiagrass	Central, Eastern	Full sun to light shade	Very good	Excellent	Medium
Cool-Season Turfgrass					
Kentucky Bluegrass	Northern, Eastern	Full sun to shade ²	Good	Fair	High
Perennial Ryegrass	Northern, Eastern	Full sun to shade	Poor	Fair	High
Tall Fescue	Statewide	Full sun to shade	Good	Good	High

¹ May be susceptible to winter kill in Northern areas

² Recommended for lightly shaded areas in Oklahoma, requires more irrigation in full sun

Irrigate efficiently.

Do a regular maintenance check on your irrigation system, check for leaks, and repair or replace broken sprinkler heads. Avoid watering frequently and lightly. Water based on need and weather conditions, not on a regular schedule.

Mulch properly.

Mulching properly can reduce soil moisture loss. Add mulch to a depth of 2-3 inches; adding too much can harm plants by reducing water and air infiltration into the soil. Avoid mounding mulch around plants and trees because it can cause trunk rot.

Mow correctly.

Increasing the mowing height to 2-3 inches for warm season grass and 3-4 inches for cool-season grass during the summer will help conserve soil moisture.

Reduce thatch.

Excessive thatch can reduce water, air, and nutrient movement, leading to shallow root development. If thatch is thicker than 0.5 inches, the yard would benefit from a dethatching.

Aerate your lawn.

Aerating reduces soil compaction and increases water infiltration.

TYPE OF SPRINKLER HEAD	BEST USE
Micro-spray	Containers, shrubs, trees, flower beds
Bubbler	Trees, shrubs, flower beds
Matched Precipitation (MP) Rotator	Large turf areas
Spray head	Medium to small sized turf areas

