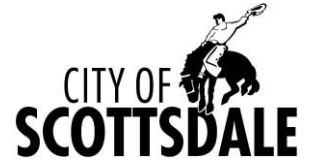


The Use of Artificial Turf in Xeriscape Landscaping



The City of Scottsdale's policy on the use of artificial turf products as a substitute for live turf is highly discouraged based on the following reasoning:

- Product can get very hot adding to the urban heat island effect.
- Can increase the required water use of other plants in the area and damage their root systems due to additional heating of the soils and environment.
- Requires replacement in 8 to 10 years.
- Reduction of maintenance is questionable, especially along roadways as the product acts as a magnet for particulates.
- Minimum water savings as water will probably be used to clean and cool it off.
- As a petroleum based product there are still safety questions concerning the plastics and chemicals used to produce it and what happens as the artificial turf breaks down.
(CDC Health Advisory Alert on potential lead exposure issued on 6/18/08)

The use of creative xeriscaping in reducing water use with live transpiring plants and natural materials is the preferred method for better landscape management.

If artificial turf is still desired, one must really consider appropriate placement and applications. Select a shaded location away from the late afternoon sun.

Artificial turf will not be allowed in city right of ways, drainage easements and retention basins.

*This is a policy in working review with possible revisions to content.

Planning and Development Services

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