

of the difference in water requirements among the many available varieties of plants, shrubs, trees, etc.¹⁴

Very little information on the various native plants and their water needs is readily available to homeowners. The best sources of such information are county agents of the OSU Extension Service, the Forestry Division of the State Department of Agriculture or local landscape architects and nurseries.

A successful statewide program to reduce exterior water use will require the cooperative efforts of the public and, particularly, public and private agencies and organizations. The following ideas might be promoted to encourage conservation:

1. The use of water-saving devices, such as automatic sprinkler systems, and the use of soil moisture testers.
2. The protection of desirable native plants when new homes are constructed.
3. Government agencies should set an example by using low water using plants around public buildings.
4. Parks, golf courses and other public facilities that normally require large quantities of water should be designed to use native or low water using plants.
5. Demonstration gardens and landscaping that use little water could be established by state and local agencies as part of a state educational program. A good example of such a garden is the Freda Hambrick Memorial Garden at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.
6. State and local agencies should cooperate with professional groups, such as the Oklahoma Horticultural Society and OSU Cooperative Extension Service, to educate the public in the use of native and low water using plants and improved watering habits.