Today on Gardening in a Minute: designing low-water use landscapes.

Water is a precious resource that we all need. To conserve water, design your Florida-Friendly landscape to thrive mainly on rainfall.

When planning your landscape, use the oasis approach, placing high-maintenance plants in areas with the most visual impact, like entranceways and patios. These areas of your landscape will need the most care.

Group plants that have similar water needs together in the rest of your landscape. If you have an irrigation system, you can set individual zones for different water requirements.

Use a two- to three-inch layer of mulch in your planting beds to help keep moisture in. Choose drought-tolerant plants, and consider a drought-tolerant turf such as bahia.

To help protect our environment, take the smart approach to landscaping and plan ahead to use less water!

For more information about Florida-Friendly practices and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.