



Welcome, and thank-you for registering to attend Prairie Xeriscape Designs “How to Xeriscape Workshop”.

The workshop will run between 9:00 AM and 4:00 – 4:30 PM, depending on the numbers in attendance and questions elicited during the day. I encourage questions, and would like to address as many as possible using your property as an example. As such, for those of you who wish to participate in this way, you can do so by collecting some information about your property prior to the workshop. This request is not mandatory for your participation in the workshop, but the information obtained will assist me in answering some of your site specific questions.

However, I ask that everyone who does attend the workshop bring a soil sample with them from their property. I will demonstrate how to assess soils and you will have time to participate yourself. You will use your own soil samples as demonstration material.

Soil Sampling Procedures and Items for Discussion:

- 1) **SOILS:** Obtain a grab sample of soil from your project area (front, side or back yard). If you are planning multiple projects you will need to produce an equal amount of grab samples. For each project area obtain 3 random soil samples from within the proposed location. Using a small trowel collect the soil from between 2" (5 cm) and 6" (15 cm) in depth from the surface. The three samples collected together should provide enough soil to at least half fill a Ziploc sandwich bag. When collecting the soil try to eliminate as much root material, leaves etc. (plant litter).
- 2) **PROPERTY DIMENSIONS:** You can either obtain your plot & house dimensions from your Real Property Report or physically measure the area with a measuring tape. Include exterior dimensions of the house, driveway, walkways, patios etc. along with the ground surface that you wish to xeriscape. A rough sketch of the property on graph paper or simple plain white paper highlights the scope of your project.
- 3) **IDENTIFY RESTRICTIONS:** After you have sketched your property dimensions you can add the following: utility lines, city water shut off (front yard applicable), gutter down spouts, existing trees, and hose bib locations.
- 4) **SITE DESCRIPTORS:** Establish the prevailing aspect (south, north, east, west), slope of the property, estimate of full sunlight hours, and any drainage related issues.

I look forward to your attendance at the workshop,

Steve MacRae, MSc., P.Ag.

Prairie Xeriscape Designs