Fall is the time of year to plant. Cooler temperatures allow plants time to develop a root system before summer. Xeriscape™ plants generally reach maturity in three years. During the fall, most plants can be divided to fill open spaces in the garden. To keep birds in your yard during the winter, leave plants as they are and clean up in the spring. This gives birds food and the plants protection from the cold. If trimming back in fall, leave three- to six-inch stalks, rather than cutting the plants to ground level. Next spring the plants are easy to find. Fall is the time of year to plant spring bulbs. They are the ultimate Xeriscape™ plants, taking their moisture from the winter snow and rain.

Mulches in the form of bark, gravel or crushed rock should be 2 to 4 inches deep. They conserve moisture and control weeds. Vary the types of mulch to add visual interest. You can apply the mulch directly over a landscape fabric which allows water to penetrate to the underlying soil.