

Xeriscape Ideas “Don’t Kill that Tree!”

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Removing grass from your landscape doesn’t mean you need to sacrifice the entire lawn and give up its cooling effects. Target the non-functional or hard to maintain areas. Eliminate sections of turf that are without a purpose or difficult to maintain. Converting even part of your lawn area can result in nice savings. With some planning, your yard can be even more attractive, and your trees can stay healthy.

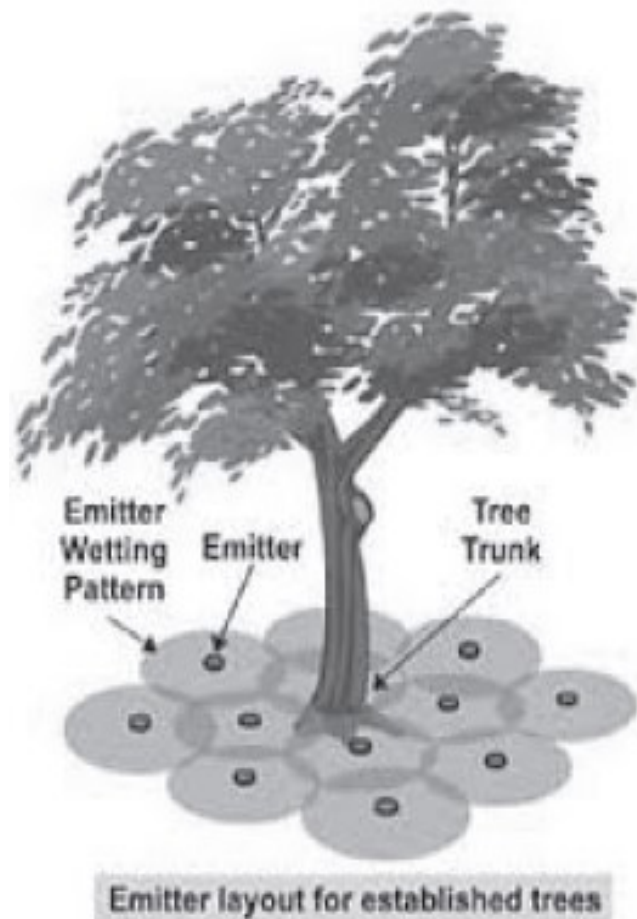
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Also overlooked when doing a xeriscape is the desire and ability to add plants later. At first you may only want a few plants. After a year or so, you might like to add additional plants. Without planning ahead, there may be no easy access to irrigate new plants

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Ask yourself a few questions:

- What do you want from your landscape?
- What limitations and what potential does it have?
- Are there vital roots to trees or shrubs to be preserved and irrigated?
- What will you need to hide or want to highlight?
- Do you have children or pets that need turf areas to play?
- Where are the sunny and shady spots?



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Removing the Old Turf

Once a tree is established in a lawn, removing turf can result in problems. Trees become reliant on frequent turf watering. When grass is removed, the tree can become stressed and vulnerable to insects and disease. Sheet mulching over existing lawn is the most effective and protects tree roots.

Proper Irrigation Design

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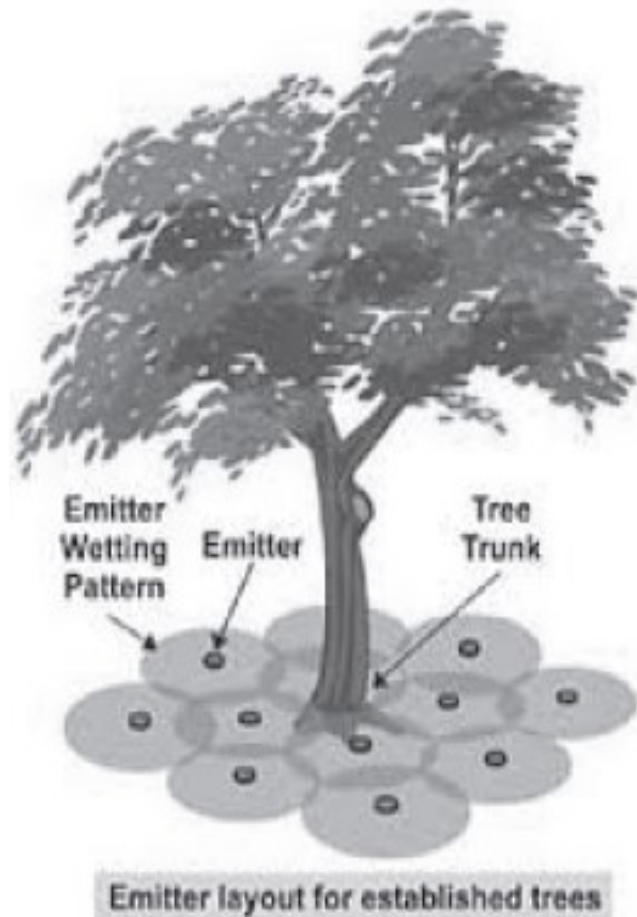
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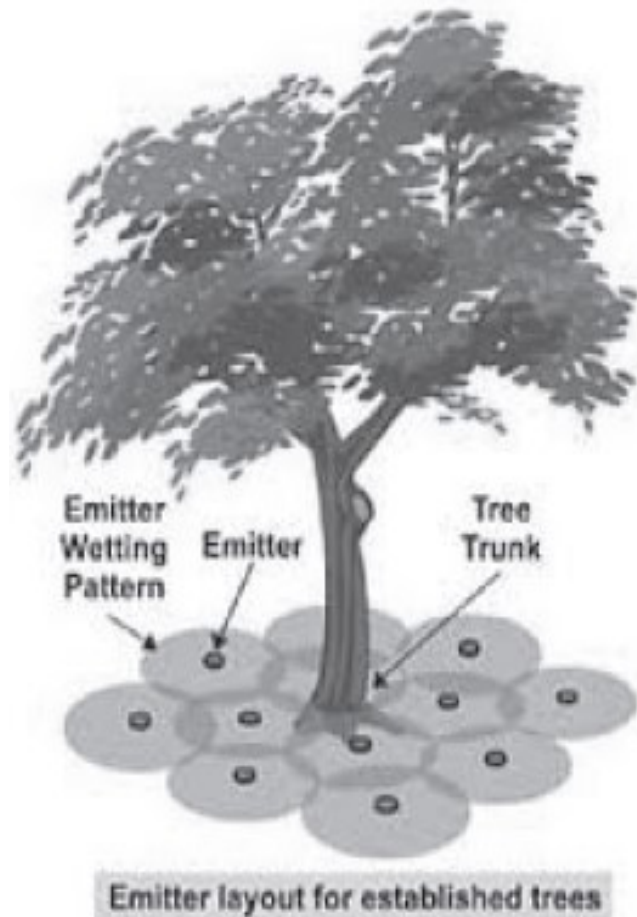
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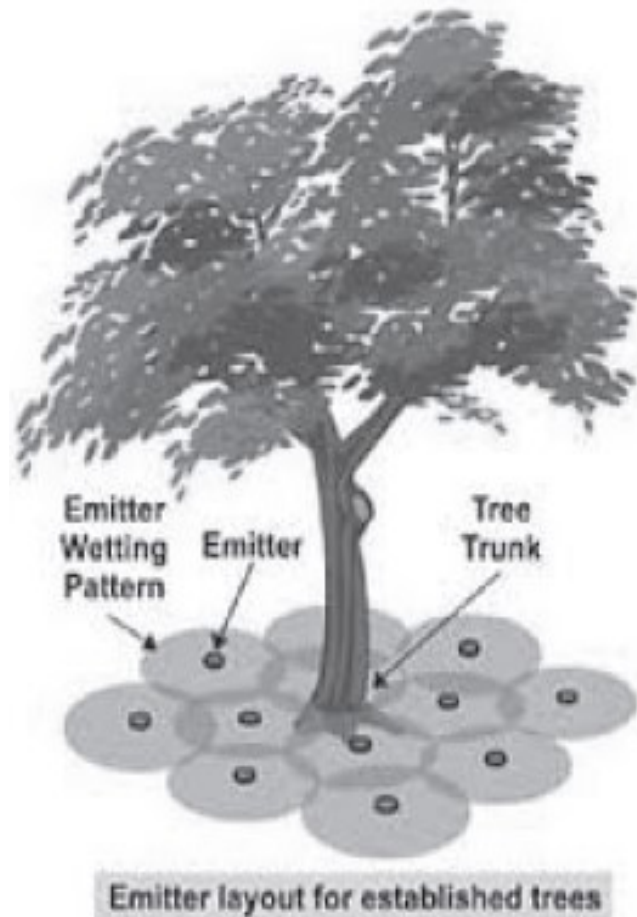
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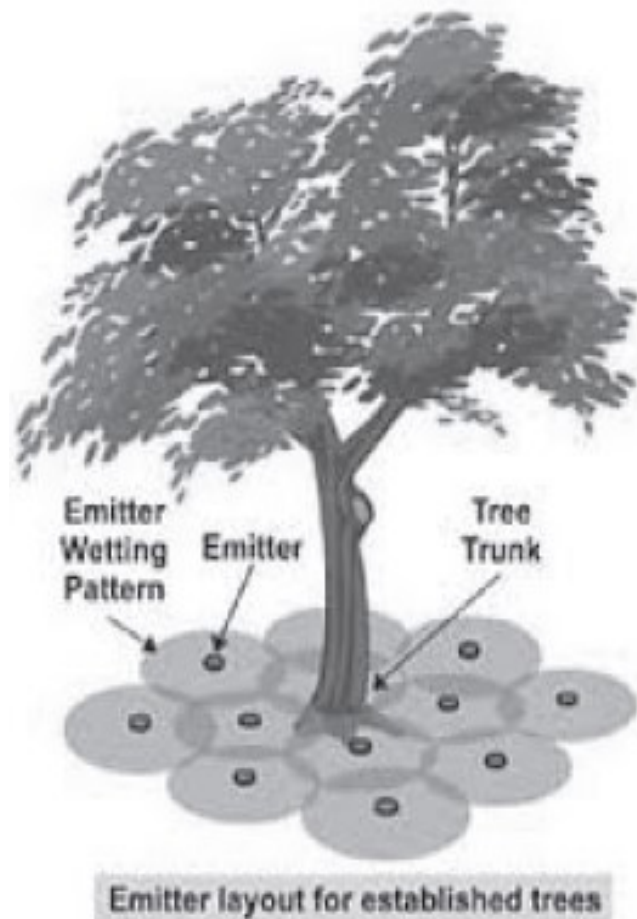
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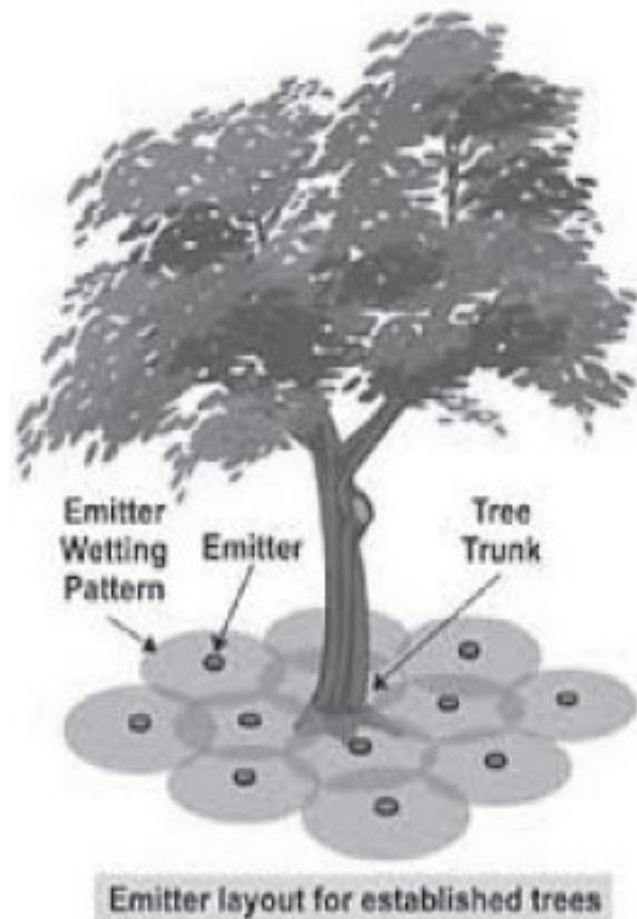
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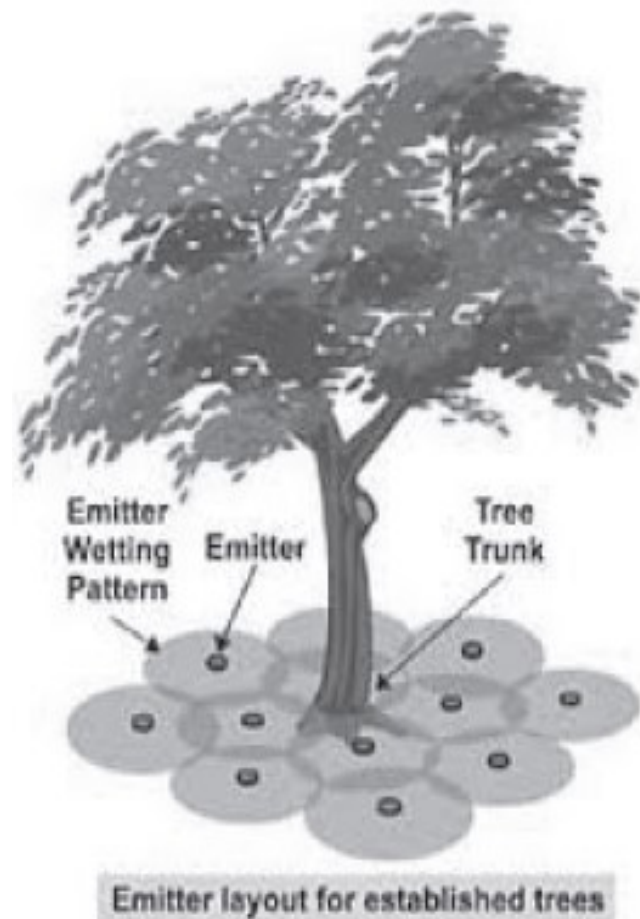
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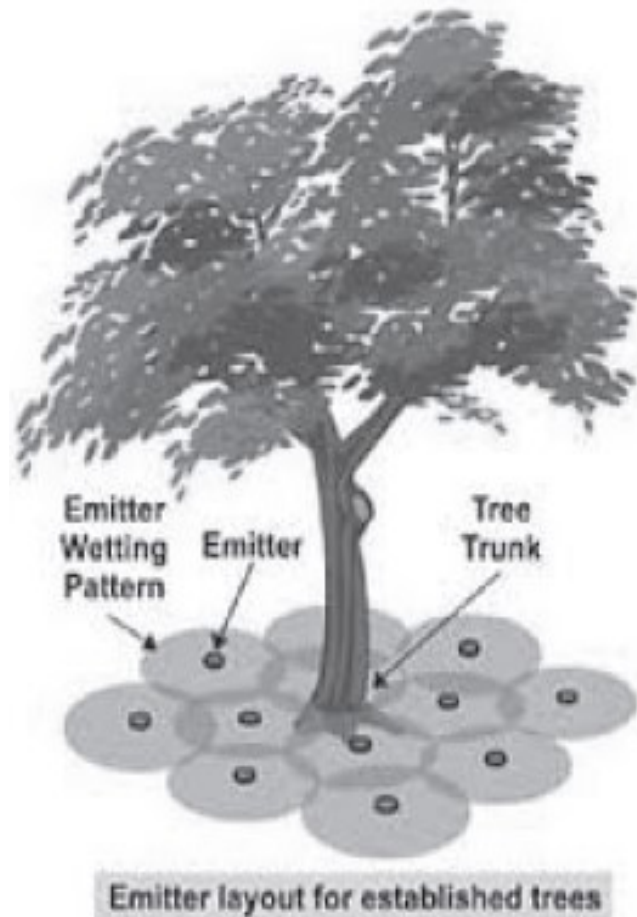
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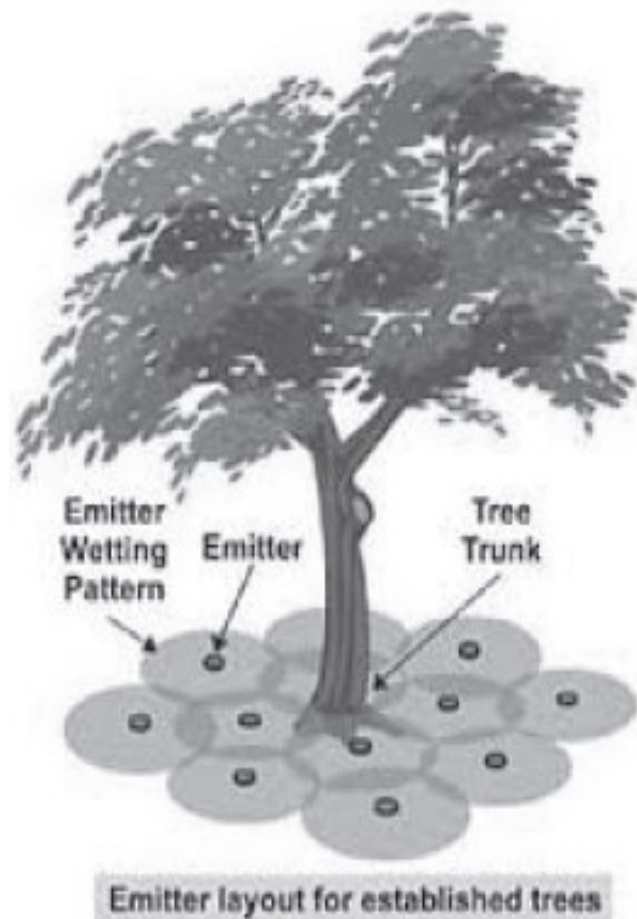
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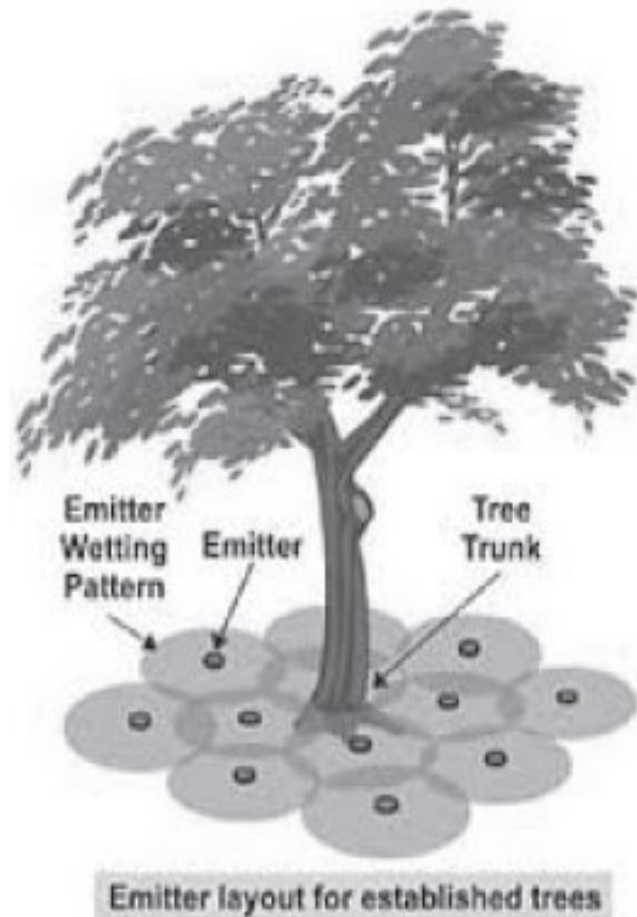
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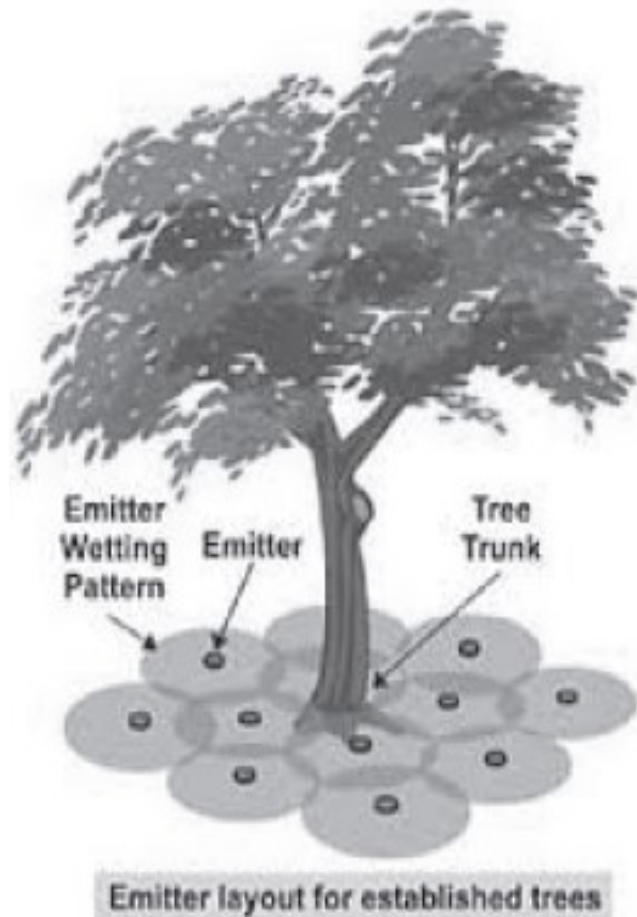
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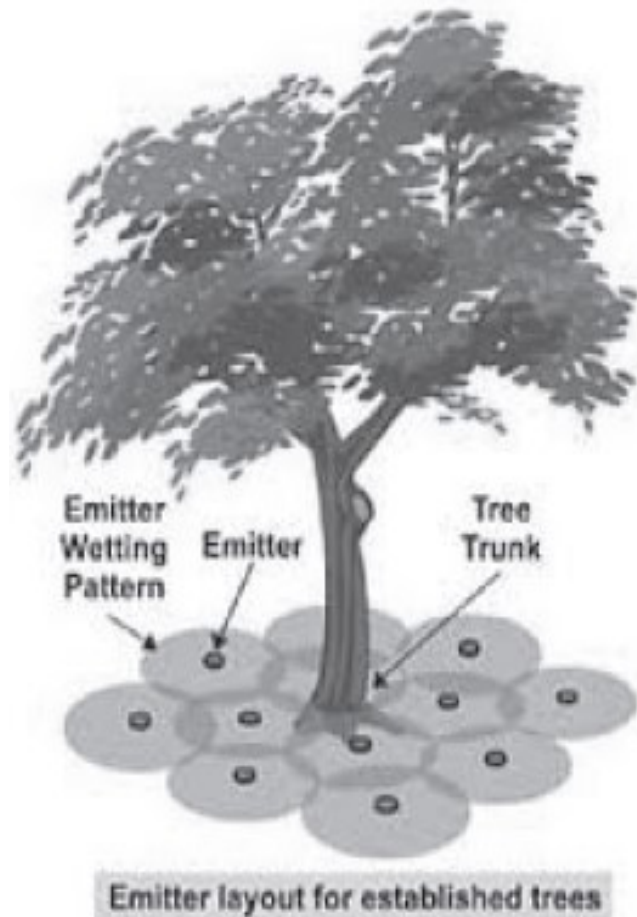
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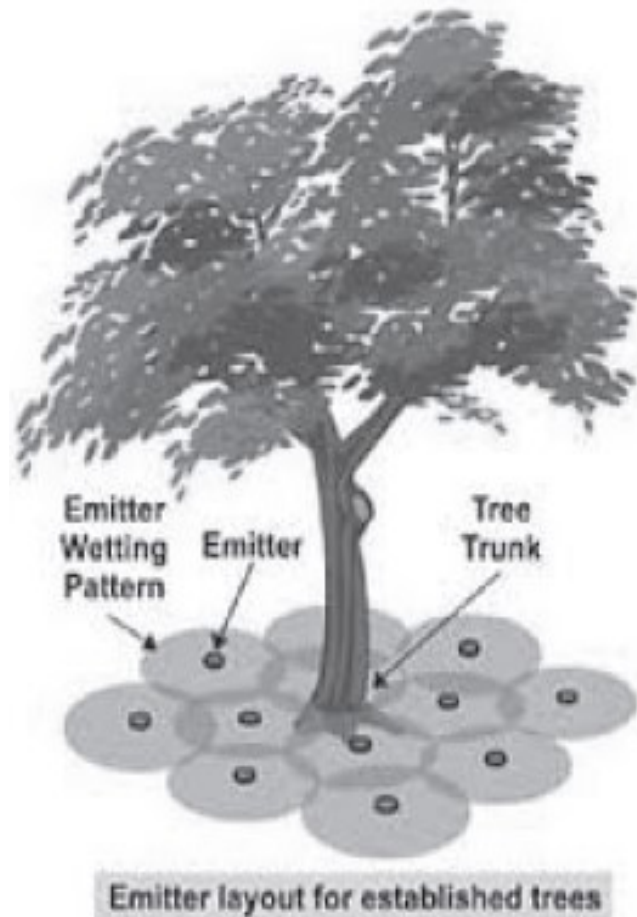
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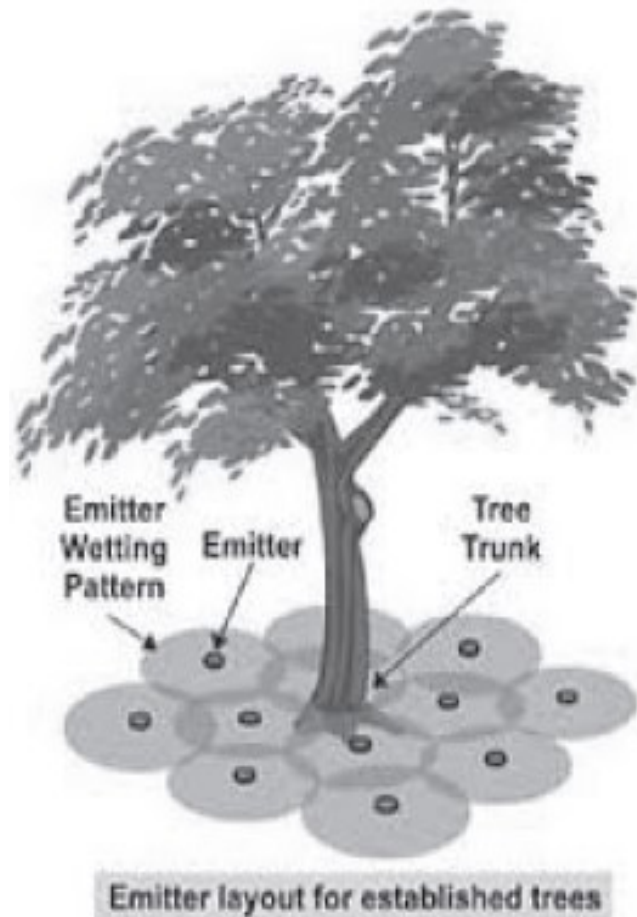
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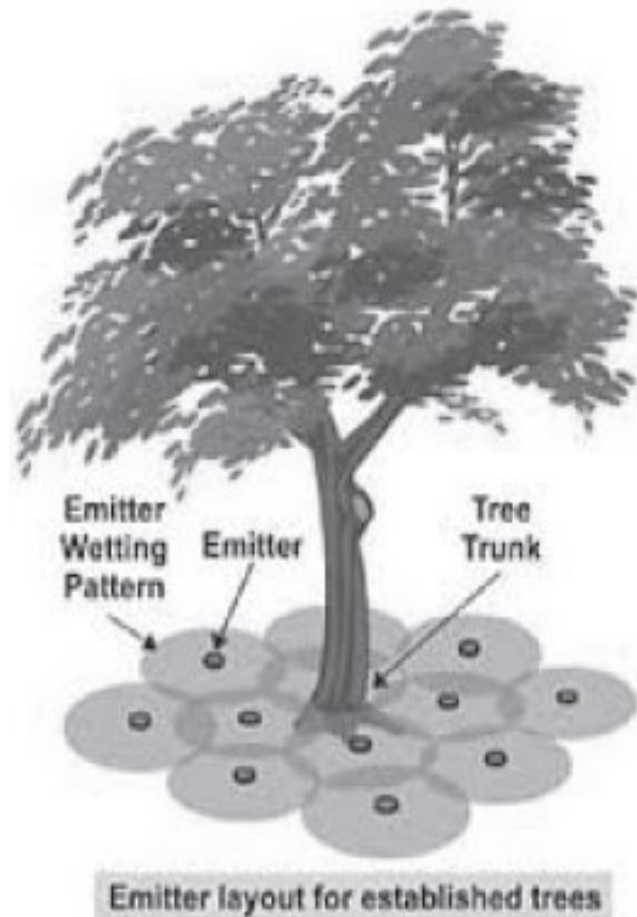
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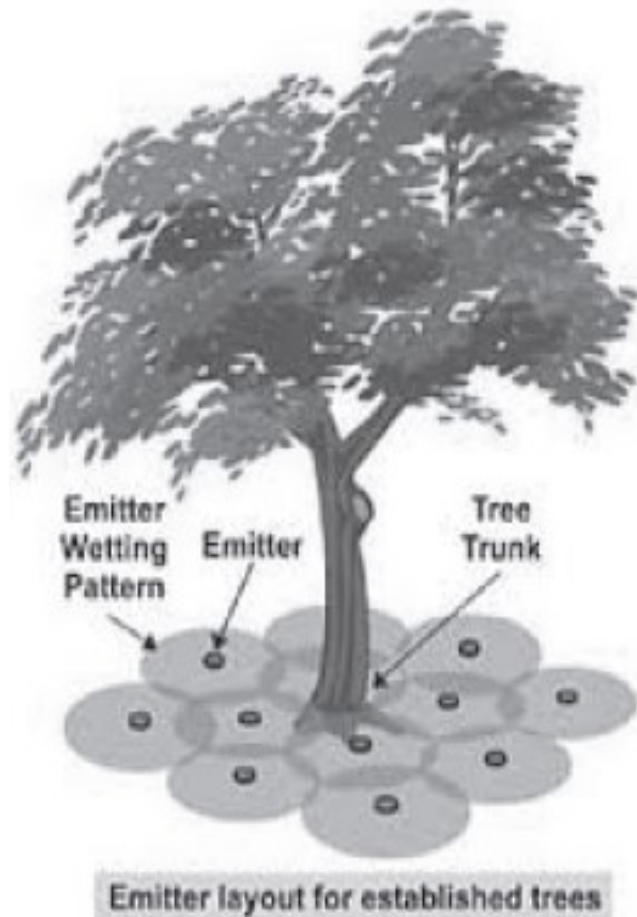
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Removing the Old Turf

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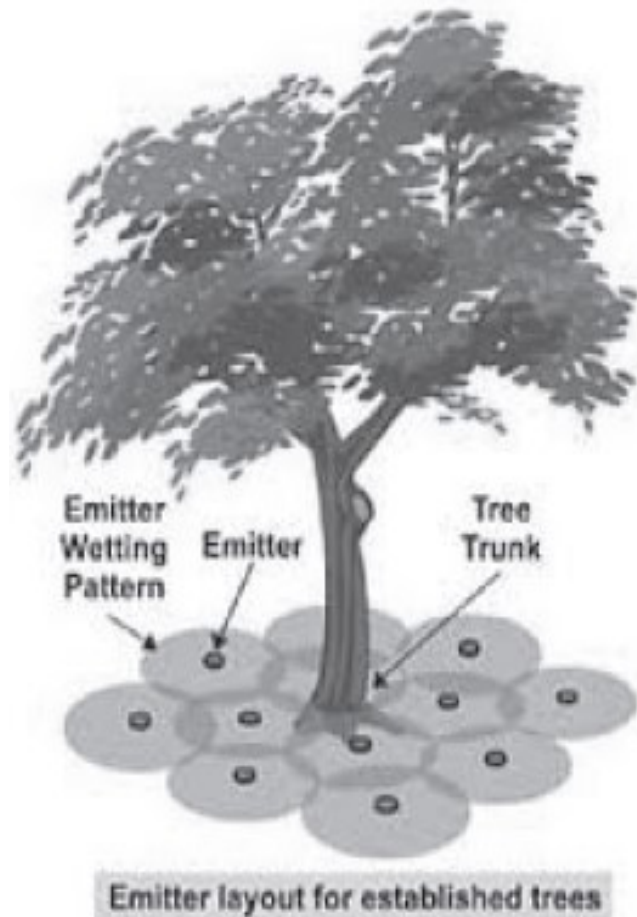
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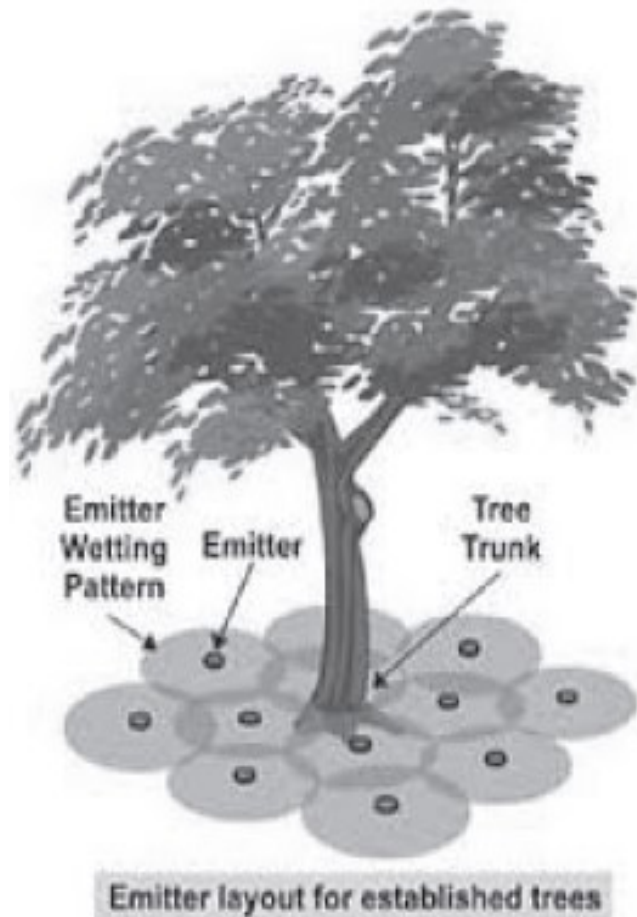
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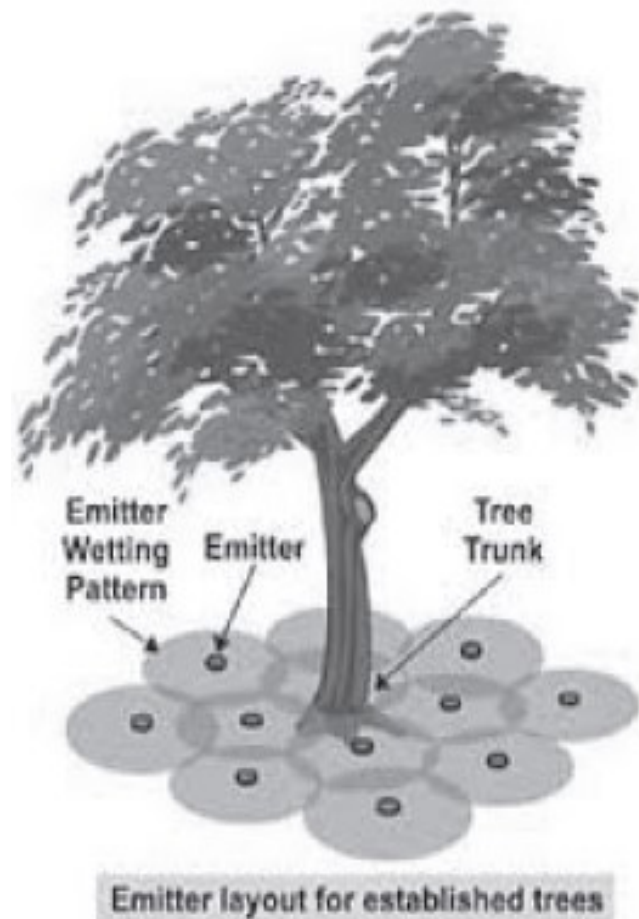
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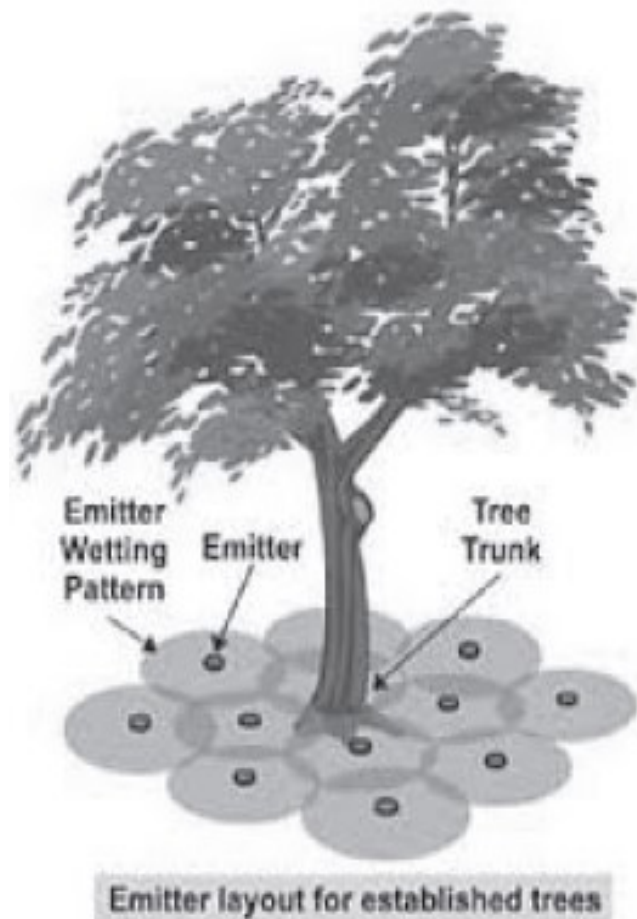
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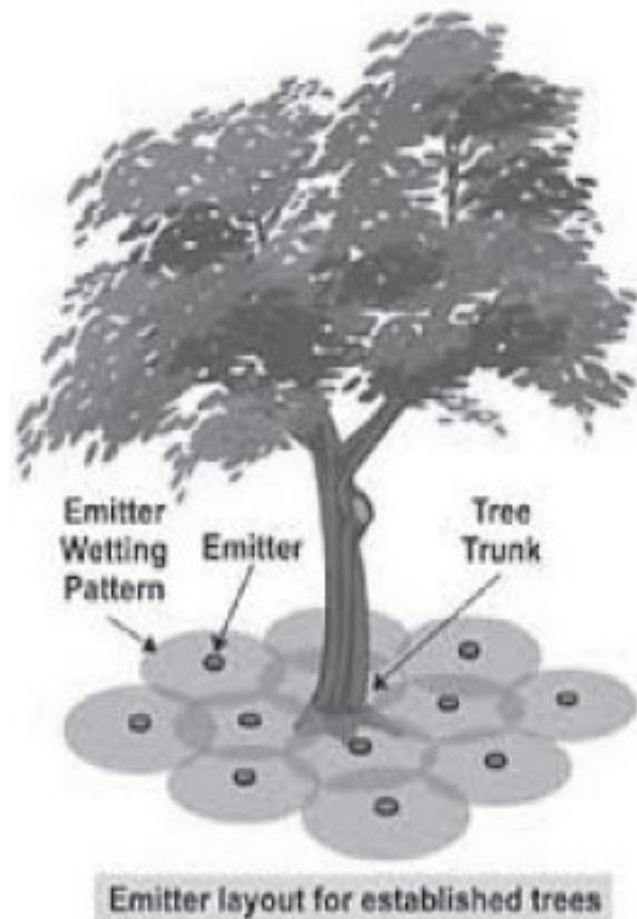
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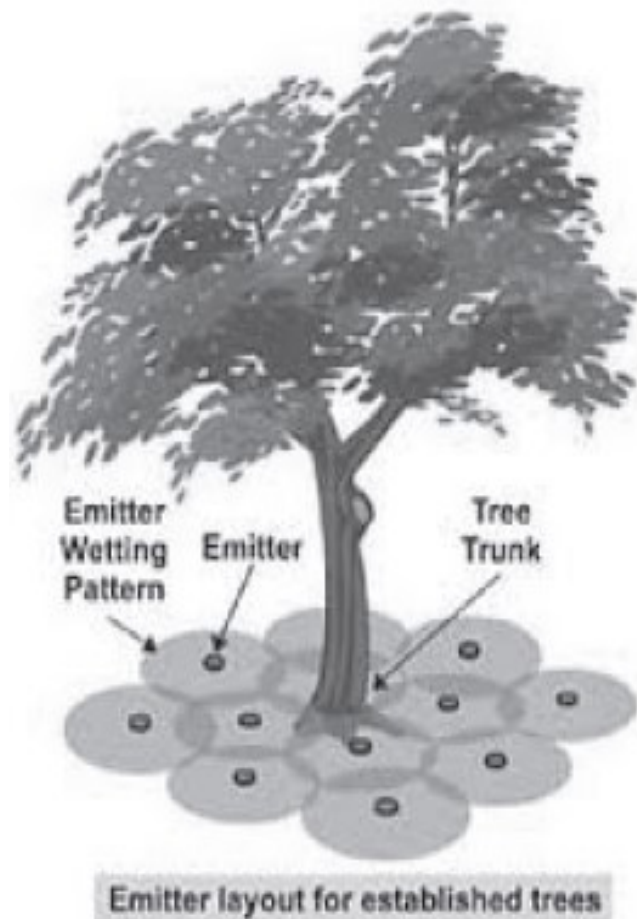
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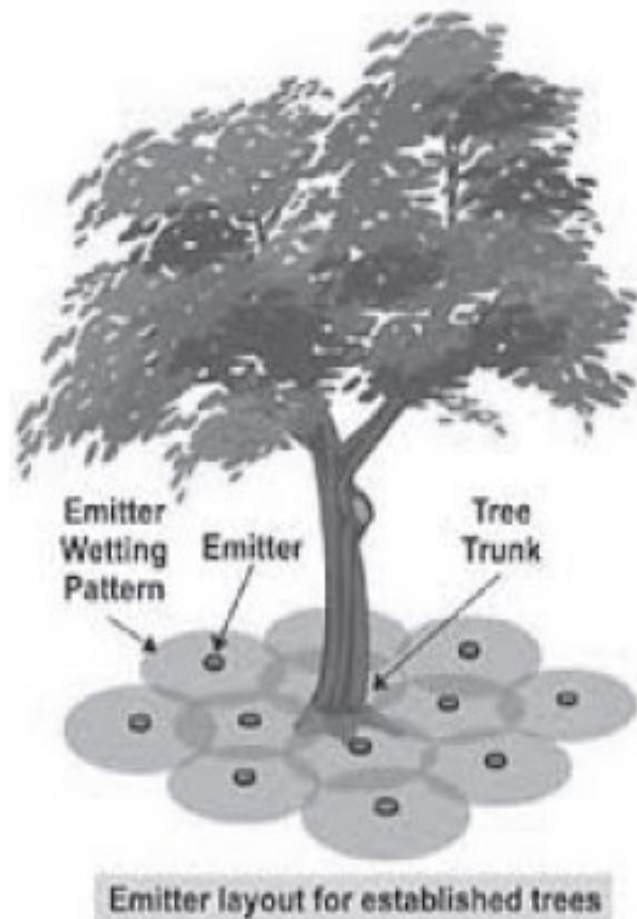
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Soil type is critical towards an accurate determination of drip count required, but in no case will 2 drips, placed near the trunk be sufficient to keep the tree healthy. If you add plants around your newly exposed tree’s root system and provide enough watering time, the drips that water these will also water your tree.

If you decide on drip, you will need to determine how many emitters and where to place them in the planting beds. Another option for trees in xeriscape is a soaker hose, which could be placed under the mulch. Proper watering will develop deep roots and makes the plants drought tolerant. The feeder roots of a plant are typically within the top 10" of the soil, and extend to the dripline; an area directly below the reach of its branches.

Look to the future. Sketch your yard with existing structures, trees, shrubs and remaining grass areas. If you were to add some plants later, where might they be? You can easily run irrigation tubing to these areas now, and simply stub them off. This simple, easy and inexpensive step can save you so much work later. Running new irrigation under existing mulch is not easy.

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A well-designed xeriscape is a beautiful and practical addition to your home. It will provide many years of low maintenance landscaping for you and add high appeal to your neighborhood.



Xeriscape Ideas “Don’t Kill that Tree!”

The term xeriscape (zerscape) is relatively new and derived from the Greek meaning dry, but the concept has been around a long time. Properly planned, xeriscape is a cost-effective method of landscaping to conserve water. It is a method of landscaping that emphasized water conservation in its use of efficient irrigation and drought-resistant plants. The Zone 7 Water District offers rebates for converting from lawn. If you may be thinking about a conversion, **let’s do a little planning.**

Removing grass from your landscape doesn’t mean you need to sacrifice the entire lawn and give up its cooling effects. Target the non-functional or hard to maintain areas. Eliminate sections of turf that are without a purpose or difficult to maintain. Converting even part of your lawn area can result in nice savings. With some planning, your yard can be even more attractive, and your trees can stay healthy.

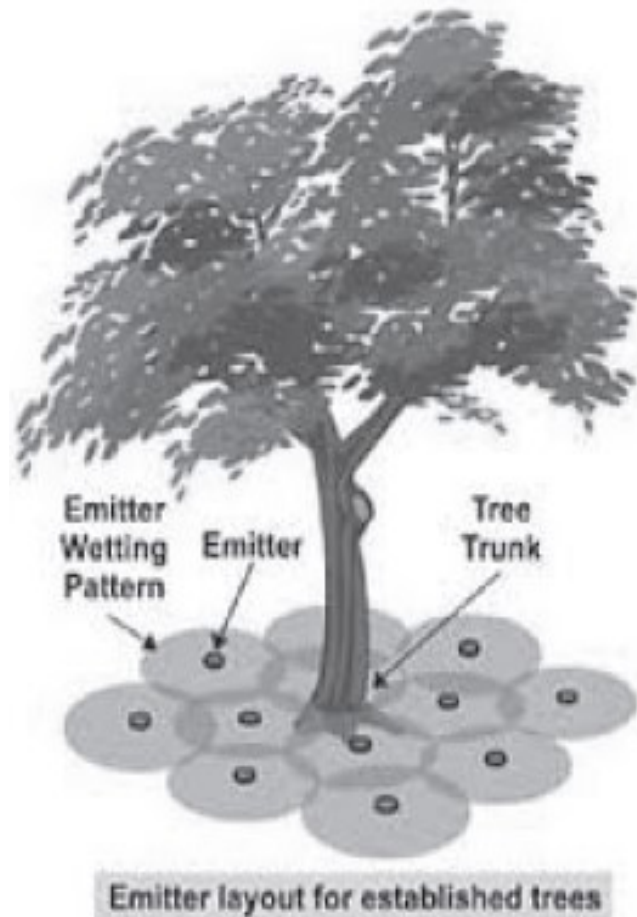
Quite often too little thought is given to the future. Trees currently watered with the lawn will be deprived of this water. Though the watering provided for a lawn is shallow and not good for trees, it is a constant source of water. So, if there is an established tree in the lawn that will be converted to xeriscape it is going to experience trauma.

Also overlooked when doing a xeriscape is the desire and ability to add plants later. At first you may only want a few plants. After a year or so, you might like to add additional plants. Without planning ahead, there may be no easy access to irrigate new plants

As with most projects, good planning brings good results.

Ask yourself a few questions:

- What do you want from your landscape?
- What limitations and what potential does it have?
- Are there vital roots to trees or shrubs to be preserved and irrigated?
- What will you need to hide or want to highlight?
- Do you have children or pets that need turf areas to play?
- Where are the sunny and shady spots?



Xeriscape Ideas “Don’t Kill that Tree!” (cont’d)

Removing the Old Turf

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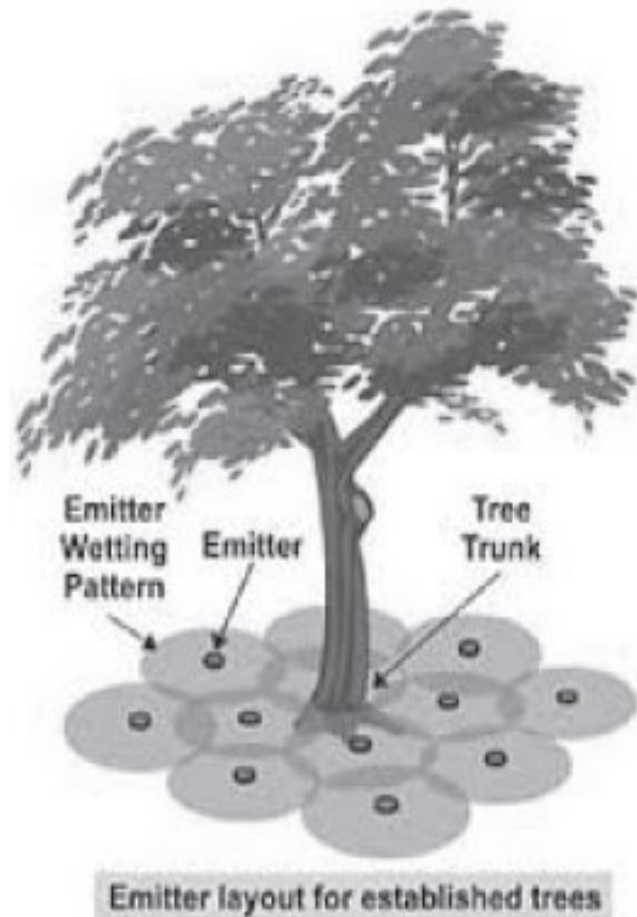
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