



# Turf Conversion Rebate Program

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **Does extending a concrete patio or extending my driveway qualify for a rebate?**

No. You can certainly include concrete patios and other impervious surfaces in your landscape, but those areas will not be measured for a potential turf conversion rebate.

### **Does converting to artificial turf qualify for a rebate?**

Yes, however the longevity of artificial turf in our area is questionable. It is not “maintenance free” as often thought. Artificial turf does not foster healthy soils (which increase moisture holding capacity, support healthy microbes and insects, filter pollutants and improve water quality). In addition, artificial turf adds to the “heat island” effect in urban settings (similar to rock mulch).

### **Does replacing turf with “rock” or using other non-organic mulch (including landscape fabric) qualify for a rebate?**

Yes, however the goal of the program is to promote water conservation and maintain the benefits of a healthy landscape while following recommended practices. Landscape fabric (or plastic) with rock mulch on top creates a harsh environment for plant growth, adds to the “heat island” effect and is not a recommended practice. Inorganic mulch (i.e. rock, gravel, landscape fabric, rubber) is not maintenance free. Over time, weeds will become an issue and the maintenance can be difficult. Inorganic mulch does not contribute to soil health as organic mulch does as it breaks down...actually it is quite the opposite and can be detrimental to soil health. (Healthy soil = Healthy plant roots = Water efficient plants)

### **What kinds of plants can I use in mulched planting beds?**

The choice is yours, however it is highly recommended that drought tolerant, low water use plants be used. K-State Research and Extension is an excellent source of information regarding what types of plants are suitable for this part of the state as well as planting/care advice. Check out what information they have to offer at [www.cottonwood.ksu.edu](http://www.cottonwood.ksu.edu) or by calling (785) 628-9430.

### **There is a sprinkler head right where I want to put a mulched planting bed. What do I need to do?**

The sprinkler head will need to be removed and capped off. Converted areas can use drip irrigation at the plant base but cannot use overhead/spray irrigation. If you wish to use drip irrigation, there are kits available to convert an existing sprinkler head to a drip manifold. If this is done, the irrigation device must meet 2012 IAPMO Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code low-flow emitter guidelines. Drip emitters must discharge less than 4 gallons/hour/emitter. Micro-spray, micro-jet, and misters must discharge less than 30 gallons/hour/nozzle. (NOTE: Every sprinkler head within the converted irrigation zone must be converted to maintain proper precipitation rates. i.e. You cannot have sprinklers mixed with drip irrigation in one zone.)