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moisture to infiltrate, and also to keep seed warm to facilitate germination. In time, the blankets break down to provide a mulch covering.

Synthetic geotextiles come in a number of materials though they generally serve the same purpose as natural. American Enka's Enkamat, actually considered a geomatrix rather than a geotextile, is constructed of nylon monofilaments fused into a three dimensional form which leaves 90 percent of its area open. This area can be filled in with soil, gravel, etc. This stabilizes the soil, allowing seed to germinate. When the turf is established, the material continues to stabilize the soil substrate.

Geotextiles like the polyesters from Warren's and polypropylene Typar from Du Pont control erosion and also prevent weeds from growing. They can be used on flat areas as well as slopes such as river and lake banks, road and rail cuts, etc.

In the end, though, there is only one way to stop erosion, and that is to treat different parcels of land according to the individual needs and capabilities.

—Jeff Sobul

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Circle No. 156 on Reader Inquiry Card

Local xeriscaping councils

A number of councils exist as part of the National Xeriscape Program Network. The following is a list by state and city with a contact included.

*indicates the program has a xeriscape demonstration garden.

National Xeriscape Council, Inc., c/o Highlands True Value Hardware & Nursery, 8080 S. Holly, Littleton, CO 80122; (303) 779-8822. Contact: Jim Grabow, president, NXCI.

ARIZONA

Flagstaff, (602) 774-5281. Contact: Frank Abeyta, Jim Clevenger or Vicki France.
Phoenix, Arizona Municipal Water Users Assn., (602) 256-0999. Contact: Robin Stinette.
Tucson*, Southern Arizona Water Resources Assn., (602) 881-3939. Contact: Marybeth Carlile.

CALIFORNIA

So. California Xeriscape*, Santa Ana, (714) 973-1023. Contact: Mary Cooper
State of California, Department of Water Resources, Office of Water Conservation, Sacramento, (916) 445-4403. Contact:

Suzanne Butterfield.

Contra Costa, Contra Costa Water District, Concord, (415) 674-8000. Contact: Debora Maxon.

Fresno, Water Division, (209) 488-1408. Contact: Dave Todd.

Oakland*, Alamo, (415) 820-6600. Contact: Richard Bennett.

San Diego*, San Diego County Water Authority, Cuyamaca College Office of Public Information, (619) 297-3218. Contact: Pete Rios.

COLORADO

Arvada*, Parks Department/Utilities Division, (303) 420-0984/431-3035. Contact: Mike Lee or Sterling Schultz.

Aurora, City of Aurora Utilities, Water Conservation Dept., (303) 695-7387. Contact: Kim Hout.

Boulder, Planning Department, (303) 441-3270. Contact: Peter Pollock, Ron Donahue or Stan Zemler.

Denver*, Denver Water Department, (303) 628-6329. Contact: Ken Ball

Ft. Collins*, Water Utilities Department, (303) 221-6681. Contact: Molly Nortier.

Genesee Estates*, Homeowners Assn., E. Golden, (303) 526-1339. Contact: Muff Mackey.

Greeley, Ext. Svc. Weld County, (303) 356-4000 x.4465. Contact: Donna Liess

Lakewood, Parks & Recreation, (303) 987-7800. Contact: Bill Jewell.

Longmont*, Municipal Utilities, (303) 776-6050. Contact: Kathy Faatz.

Wheat Ridge, Parks Dept., (303) 237-6944 x.283. Contact: Bill Cassel.

FLORIDA

Southern Fla., S. Florida Water Mgmt. District, West Palm Beach, (356) 686-8800 x.391. Contact: Bruce Adams.

NEVADA

Reno*, Great Basin Xeriscape, Inc., (702) 329-4329. Contact: Tom Stille.

Sierra Pacific Power Company*, Reno, (702) 689-4116. Contact: John M. Metcalf.

TEXAS

Abilene, Water Administration, (915) 676-6000. Contact: Cynthia Manning.

Arlington, Utilities Dept., (817) 275-3271. Contact: John Kubala.

Austin*, City of Austin Xeriscape Program, Resource Management Dept., (512) 462-6265. Contact: Martha Latta.

Brownsville*, Public Utilities Board, (512) 544-3800. Contact: Pamela Gross Downing.

Corpus Christi*, Corpus Christi Botanical Society, (512) 992-5337. Contact: Dr. Sue Gardner.

Denton, Operations & Energy Mgmt., (817) 566-8448. Contact: Lisa Tindel.

Ft. Worth*, Ft. Worth Water Department, (817) 870-8220. Contact: Cari Hyden.

McKinney, Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary, (214) 542-5566. Contact: Marcia Coale.

San Antonio*, South Central Texas Xeriscape Program, c/o Bexar County Extension Service, (512) 220-2776; Contact also: Doug Welsh, Texas A&M College Station, (409) 845-7341.