REPLACE YOUR THIRSTY LAWN WITH

CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Deva Luna, Earthcare Landscaping
May 1, 2010

WHY NATIVES?

- California has a very unique flora
- Plants and pollinators interdependent
- Ecological - use less chemicals
- Economical - use less water
- Smart gardening - use less labor

SANTA MONICA DEMONSTRATION
"garden/garden"

Conventional Landscaping

California Natives

Deva Luna, Earthcare Landscaping

CONVENTIONAL GARDEN ESTABLISHED

CALIFORNIA NATIVE GARDEN ESTABLISHED

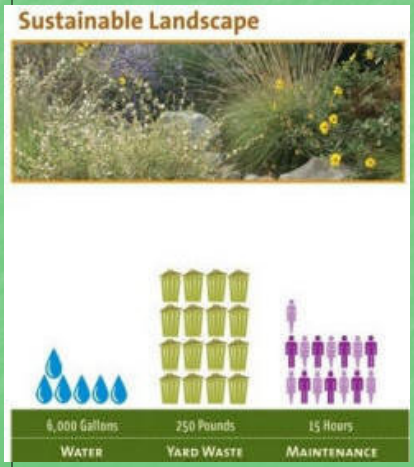
"garden/garden" Comparison

- 1/10 of the water
- ¼ of the maintenance labor
- 3/5 of the green waste

- Increased habitat
- Lowered pollution

To view online:
http://www.smgov.net/Departments/OSE/Categories/Landscape/Demonstration_Gardens.aspx

Annual Comparison



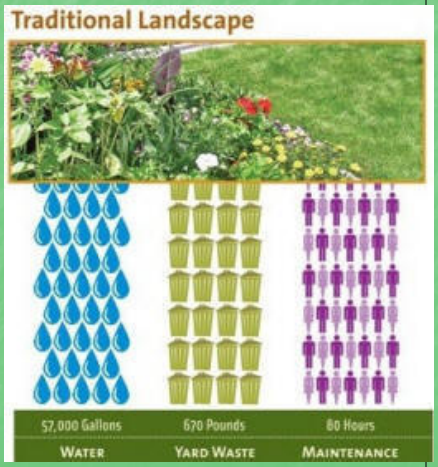
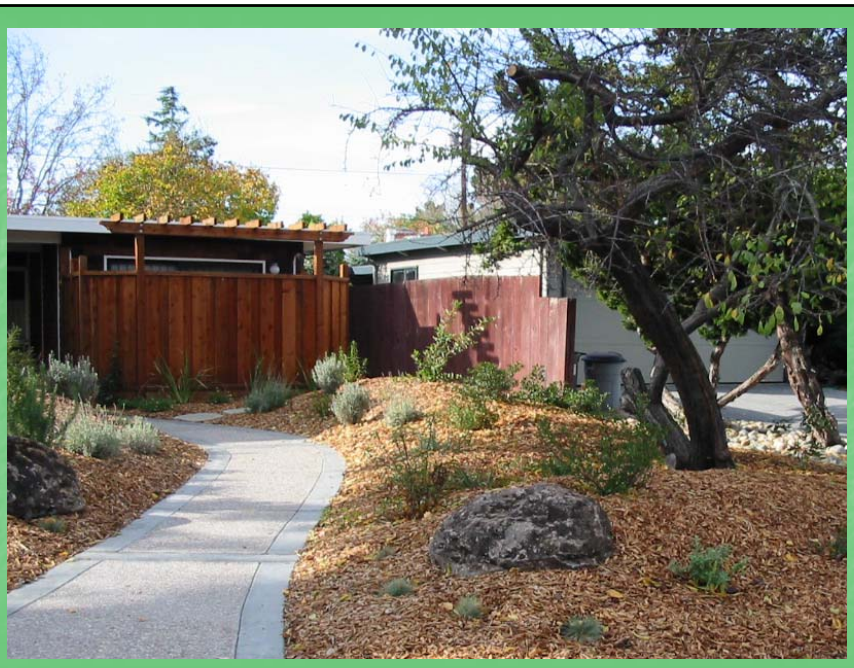


Photo and Design: Stephanie Morris



Design: Annaloy Nickum Photo: Deva Luna

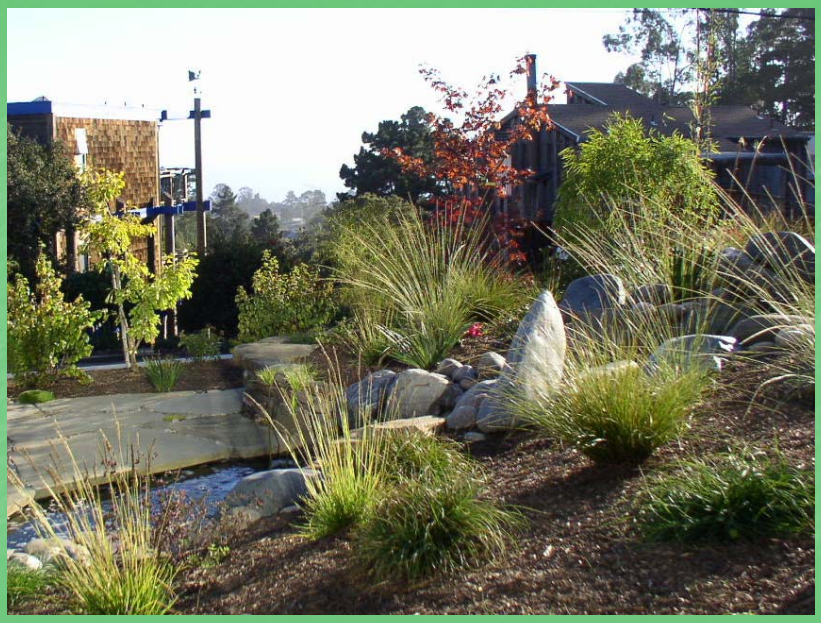


Photo: Laura Schaub

Design: Annaloy Nickum Photo: Deva Luna

Support habitat

Birds, bees and butterflies, oh my!

- No pesticides or herbicides
- Plant natives that bloom at different times
- Some evergreen, some deciduous
- Don't prune off seeds and berries
- Provide shelter and places to raise young
- Provide water

Pipevine (Aristolochia) & Pipevine Swallowtail

Monarch caterpillar on Showy Milkweed

Just add water to attract birds!

“LAWN” SUBSTITUTES

Herbs, Groundcovers, Meadows

MIXED HERB LAWN

Design & Photo: Stephanie Morris

YARROW LAWN

Photo: Stephanie Morris

ECO-LAWN

“NO MOW” GRASSES

- Seasonal changes
- Flowers sway in the breeze
- Can be weed whacked once or twice a year
- Provide habitat for birds, butterflies
- Can be interplanted with wildflowers

Design: Agi Kehoe Photo: Deva Luna

Wildflowers in a meadow

RED FESCUE

Festuca rubra

Design: Middlebrook Gardens Photo: Stephanie Morris

WESTERN FESCUE

Festuca occidentalis

Design: Middlebrook Gardens Photo: Deva Luna

CALIFORNIA FESCUE

Dry creek in a parking strip

DUNE SEDGE

Carex pansa

Design: Agi Kehoe Installation: EarthCare Landscaping

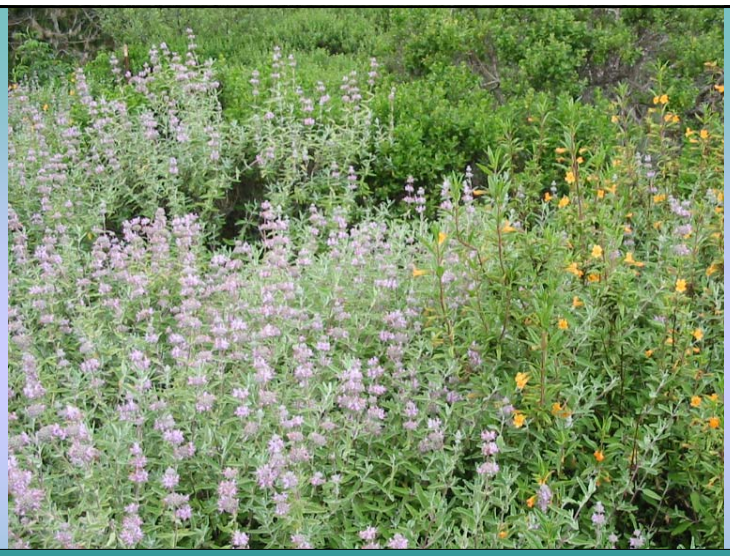
NATIVE SOD NOW AVAILABLE

Chaparral, Grassland, and Desert Plants

Sun, dry or occasional deep watering

MANZANITA

Arctostaphylos 'Dr. Hurd'



Cleveland Sage (with Monkey Flower)

Salvia clevelandii

SAGE

Salvia 'Dara's Choice'

DWARF COYOTE BUSH

Baccharis pillularis 'Twin Peaks'

© Keir Morse
ISLAND BUSH POPPY
Dendromecon harfordii

MATILIJA POPPY
Romneya coulteri

WOOLY BLUE CURLS

Trichostema lanatum

CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA

Epilobium 'Select Mattole'

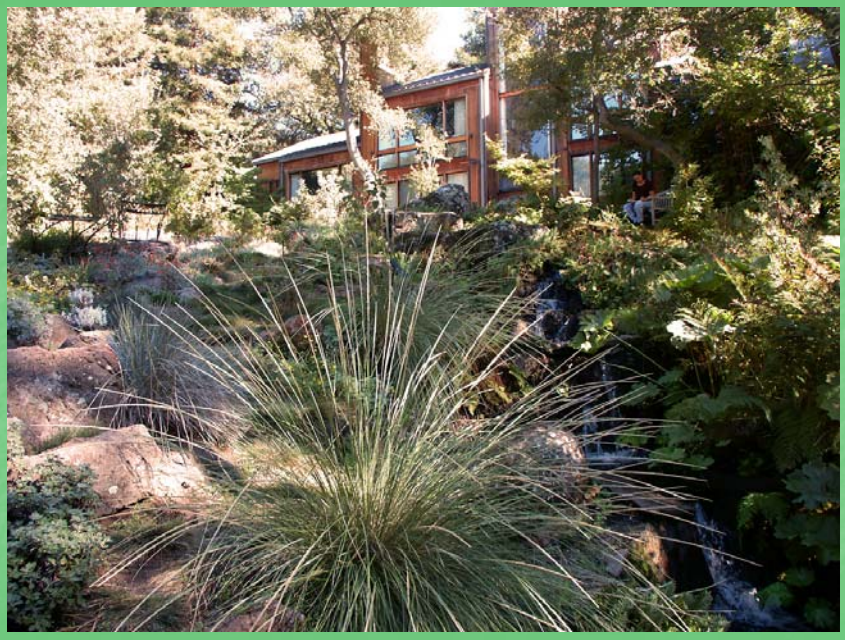
CEANOTHUS ‘CONCHA

ROSY BUCKWHEAT

Eriogonum grande var. rubescens

FOOTHILL PENSTEMON

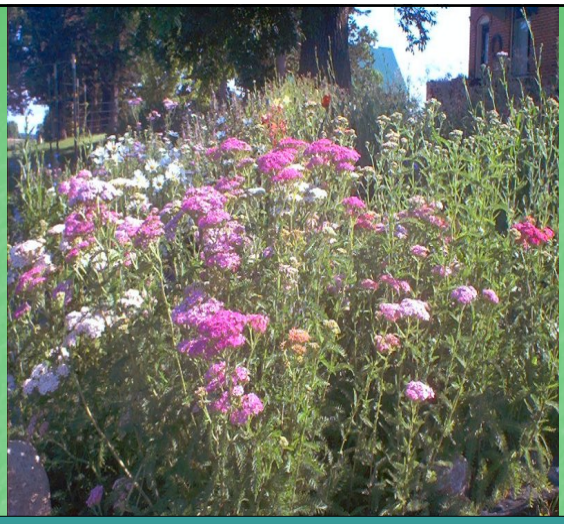
Penstemon heterophyllus



Deer Grass Muhlenbergia rigens

Monkey Flower
Mimulus aurantiacus 'Valentine'

Western Redbud and Ceanothus
in a garden setting



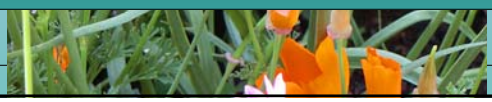
Yarrow

Achillea millefolium 'Pink Island Form'

Poppy, Penstemon & Buckwheat

Riparian and Coastal Plants

Part sun, watered regularly
Afternoon shade, moderate water



Sandhill Sagebrush

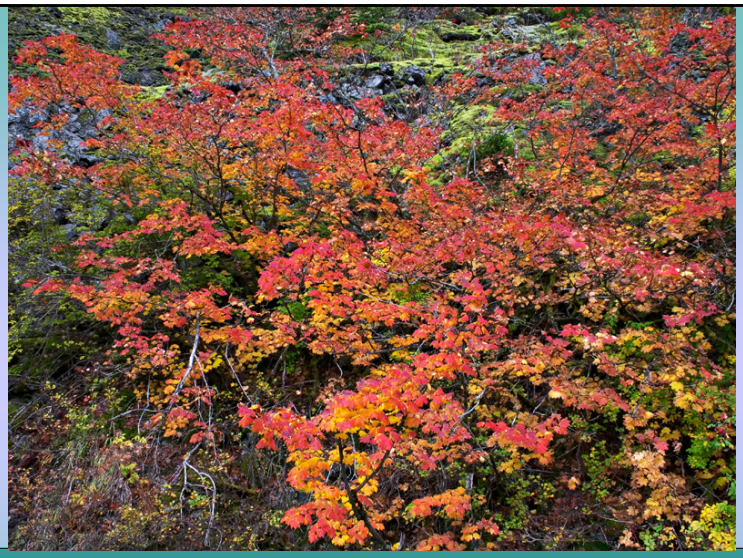
Artemesia pynocephylla 'David's Choice'

Design: Sherri Osaka Installation: EarthCare Landscaping

Idaho Fescue
Festuca idahoensis

Design: Sherri Osaka Photo: Deva Luna

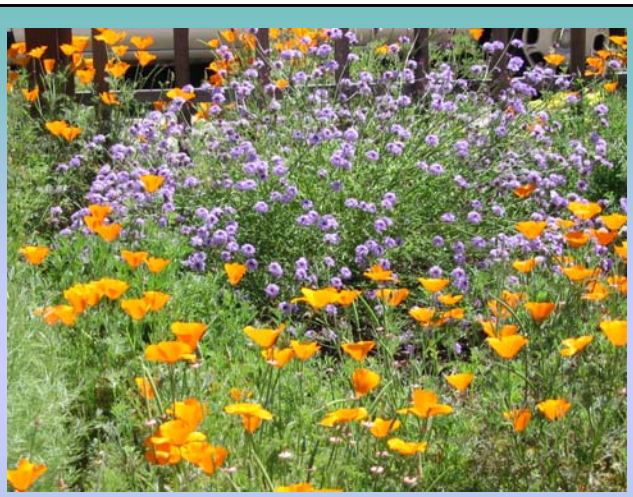
Beach Strawberry *Fragaria chiloensis*



Vine Maple
Acer circinatum

Design & Photo: Sherri Osaka

California Lilac
Ceanothus hearstiorum



Cedros Island Verbena

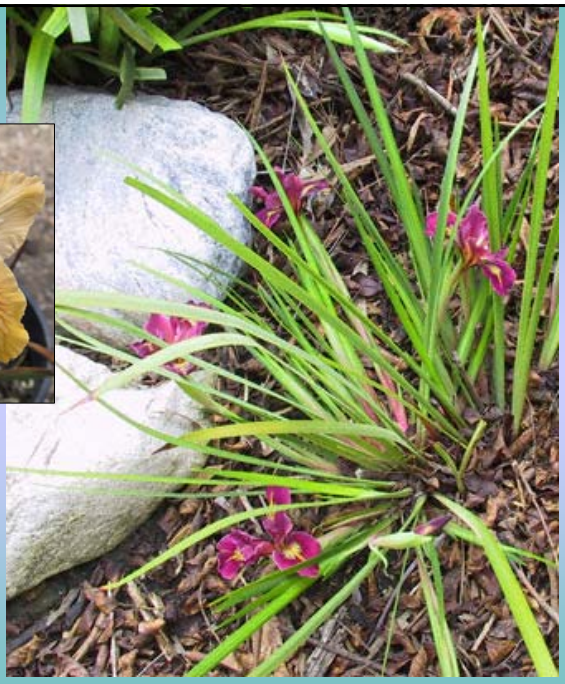
Verbena lilacina 'De La Mina'

Beach Aster

Erigeron glaucus 'Wayne Roderick'

Oak Woodland

Shade or part shade, dry or occasional deep watering



Pacific Coast Hybrid Iris

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi - Manzanita
Heuchera 'Old La Rochette - Alum Root

COYOTE MINT
Monarda villosa

Hummingbird Sage
Salvia spathacea

California Coffeeberry
Rhamnus californica 'Eve Case'

Toyon
Heteromeles arbutifolia

California Grape
Vitis californica 'Roger's Red'

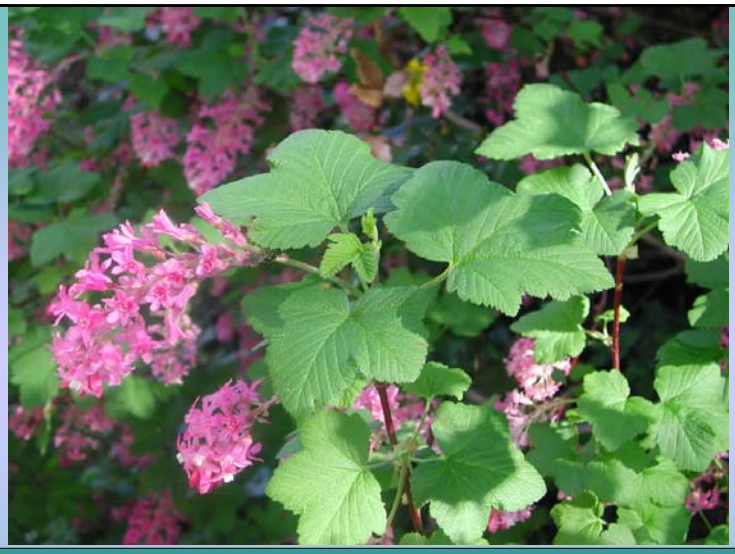
Redwood Forest

Shade, watered regularly

Wild Ginger
Asarum caudatum

Western Bleeding Heart
Dicentra formosa

Western Columbine
Aquilegia formosa



Flowering Currant
Ribes sanguineum

Western Azalea
Rhododendron occidentale

Western Sword Fern
Polystichum munitum

Wax Myrtle
Myrica californica

Spicebush
Calycanthus occidentalis

HOW TO

REMOVE YOUR LAWN

THIRSTY LAWN -- BEFORE

AFTER: *NATURAL FRONT YARDS*

SUSTAINABLE GUIDELINES

Natural processes will aide you

- Prohibit photosynthesis
- Keep materials on site
- Be persistent & patient
- Keeping old lawn creates compost

Scalped lawn

Cut back the edges near hardscape
Make a mound

SMOTHER

- Newspaper (5 layers)
  - Avoid glossy sections
  - Black & white, colored okay
  - Dampen to avoid blowing away, cover w/mulch
- Cardboard, overlapped
- Compost
- Natural fiber carpet
- Mulch

IF IT MUST BE REMOVED

- For small areas, use pick & shovel
- Rent a sod cutter for high grade or noxious weeds
- Remove to landfill or other location to dry out thoroughly
- Two passes may be necessary
- Then rototill lightly, and rake out the Bermuda Grass
- Follow up by spot weeding anything that re-sprouts

Dig it out by hand

Rent a Sod Cutter

SHEET COMPOSTING

- Similar to Lasagna Gardening
- Plant directly into layers of organic matter
  - **Annual weeds, smashed down**
  - **Newspapers**
  - **Thick arbor chips**
  - **Thin layer of purchased mulch**
- Make a planting pocket of good soil

Planting “pocket” in mulch

Three kinds of mulch

Drip irrigation

Dry creek rough grading

Dry creek and two colors of mulch

REBATES

Santa Clara Valley Water District offers rebates to replace your lawn with appropriate plants, drip irrigation and permeable surfaces.

$.75/sft up to $2,000, material costs reimbursed

Commercial properties up to $20,000

Palo Alto and Morgan Hill will match funds

www.valleywater.org

Remember “garden / garden”?

The choice is yours!

RESOURCES

www.goingnativegardentour.org
Going Native Garden Tour – April

www.cnps.org
California Native Plant Society

www.yerbabuenanursery.com
Yerba Buena Demonstration Garden

www.naturalfrontyards.com
Inexpensive professional lawn replacement

www.landscapestandards.com
A wiki site for Sustainable Landscaping with lists of professionals and pictures

California natives can be spectacular!!!

REPLACE YOUR THIRSTY LAWN WITH CA NATIVES

Presented by BAWSCA & City of Mountain View May 1, 2010

DEVA LUNA – EARTHCARE LANDSCAPING – 408-871-2792

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- California has a very unique flora
- Plants and pollinators interdependent
- Ecological - use less chemicals
- Economical – use less water
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Garden/garden comparison (Santa Monica)

- 1/10 of the water
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NO MOW GRASSES / MEADOWS

- Seasonal changes
- Flowers sway in the breeze
- Can be weed whacked annually
- Provide habitat for birds, butterflies
- Can be inter-planted with wildflowers

Clumping Grasses for Meadows

- California Fescue *Festuca. californica*
- June Grass *Koeleria macrantha*
- Purple Needle Grass *Nasella pulchra*
- Leafy Reed Grass *Calamogrostis foliosa*
- Berkeley Sedge *Carex divulsa* *(non-native)*

Spreading Grasses for Meadows

- Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*
- Dune Sedge *Carex pansa*
- Foothill Sedge *Carex praegracilis*
- Idaho Fescue *Festuca idahoensis*

ESTABLISHING A MEADOW

- Relaxed attitude around perfection/change
- Decide on type of grass
- Mixed with flowers?
- Transplants or seed?
- Pre-germination of existing weed seeds
- Weeding important until established

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HERBAL "LAWNS"

- Wooly Thyme, Creeping Thyme, Elfin Thyme
- Chamomile
- Yarrow
- Sweet Woodruff
- Corsican Mint
- Yerba Buena

ECO-LAWN: Mixture of clover, yarrow & dwarf fescues

ARTIFICIAL LAWN: never needs mowing or watering – but can't recycle it and doesn't cool or give anything back to the Earth

DROUGHT TOLERANTGROUND COVERS
Manzanita, Dwarf Coyote Bush, Dwarf Ceanothus, Strawberry, (non-natives:) Dymondia, Lowfast Cotoneaster, Rosemary

SUNNY & DRY: CHAPPARAL, GRASSLAND & DESERT PLANTS,
Manzanita, Sage, Ceanothus (some), Coyote Bush, Matilija Poppy, Wooly Blue Curls, California Fuchsia, Buckwheats, Deer Grass, Monkey Flower, Foothill Penstemon, Yarrow

SHADY & DRY: OAK WOODLAND
Coffeeberry, Toyon, Hummingbird Sage, Coral Bells, Douglas Iris, California Grape, Coyote Mint,

SUNNY WITH MODERATE WATER: RIPARIAN & COASTAL PLANTS
Sandhill Sagebrush, Vine Maple, Beach Strawberry, Beach Aster, Siskyou Blue Fescue, Cedros Island Verbena, Ground cover Manzanita

SHADE WITH REGULAR WATER: REDWOOD FOREST
Wild Ginger, Bleeding Heart, Flowering Currant, Western Columbine, Western Azalea, Sword Fern, Wax Myrtle, Spicebush

RESOURCES

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Yerba Buena Demonstration Garden	www.yerbabuenanursery.com
Low Cost Professional Lawn Replacement	www.naturalfrontyards.com
Sustainable Landscaping Site with lists of professionals and pictures	www.landscapestandards.com