

Make “Right Plant, Right Place” your Water Conservation Mantra!



Dara's Choice Sage front, Twin Peaks Dwarf Coyote Bush back

Water-wise and California native plants provide beautiful, colorful landscapes while conserving precious water resources.

Consider what you plant and where to you plant it; maximize water and minimize plant stress. Enjoy the continuous parade of pollinating birds and insects buzzing around your garden!

- ◆ **Know plants' water, sun and soil needs.** Group plants with similar water needs (hydrozone). Program irrigation zones accordingly.
- ◆ **Create low-maintenance areas** with hardy mounding groundcover varieties of Manzanita, Ceanothus and Sage, plus Dwarf Coyote Bush and Stonecrop.
- ◆ **Install drip irrigation** to deliver water to where it is needed. Many California native plants require little to no irrigation after they are established one to two summers.
- ◆ **Apply organic compost, fish/seaweed emulsions or manure** to stressed plants. Conventional fertilizer runoff enters storm drains, negatively impacting water quality.
- ◆ **Water early morning** to avoid fungal issues and evaporation. Build berms around plants to hold water in the root zone.
- ◆ **Mulch to insulate soil moisture & reduce weeds.** Pull weeds immediately! They steal water from desired plants.
- ◆ **Cool season = less water.** Use the rain shut-off on your system. Established gardens planted 2+ years typically don't require irrigation from Fall to Spring time changes.
- ◆ **Lose the lawn!** Only plant grass where it will be used and enjoyed. Use California native mixed fescues that naturally require less water.
- ◆ **Runoff? Reduce watering time** into many shorter periods to let water soak in. Check for permanently wet areas that may indicate broken pipes.
- ◆ **Still have lawn? Aerate** to allow root access to water. Soil surfaces may appear dry, but can be moist inches below. Use a moisture meter to check.
- ◆ **Install permeable paving** that allows water to soak into the ground rather than run off.