

2011 Spring Garden Tour

Sustainability in the Landscape

This year the UC Master Gardeners of Fresno County are adding a new feature to our annual Spring Garden Tour. For those interested in learning how to save water in the landscape, or discovering methods for gardening in a more sustainable manner, we will be highlighting “sustainable features” in all of the gardens on the tour. There are many ways you can modify your garden or gardening habits to create a healthier garden for you, your family, wildlife, and our community. Making one change at a time, even a small change, will make a difference.

As you tour the 2011 gardens, you may notice small signs placed in the gardens indicating sustainable features. See the tables below to learn a little about sustainable landscaping and what steps homeowners have taken in their gardens that create a more sustainable landscape. The first table shows the key to our “sustainable feature” signs and lists a few of the methods you might consider utilizing in your own garden. The second table lists each of the gardens on the tour, what features we are highlighting, and why.

If you have an interest in learning more about any of these topics, you can find more information on our website at <http://ucanr.org/sites/mgfresno/> then click on the Sustainable Landscape tab on the left.

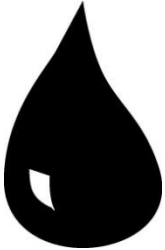

You can also find detailed information about sustainable landscaping and how to apply for a Central Valley Friendly Landscape award at the Central Valley Friendly Landscaping website:

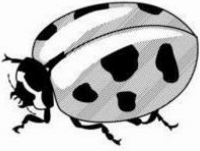



<http://ucanr.org/CVFriendlyLandscaping>










Thank you for your interest in sustainable landscaping. We look forward to watching the evolution of our local landscapes as gardeners adopt friendlier habits, one small change at a time.
























“Sustainability is a way of living that meets the needs of the present without impacting the needs of the future.”

From: Sustainable Sites Initiative, <http://www.sustainablesites.org>

	<p>Be Water-wise</p> <p><u>Save water</u>- Practice proper irrigation scheduling, observe and repair leaks and eliminate runoff. Adjust irrigation timer seasonally. Reduce lawn. Use drought tolerant plants. Install drip irrigation. Plant in Hydrozones. Use compost and mulch to conserve soil moisture.</p> <p><u>Protect water quality</u>- Eliminate water runoff to keep chemicals and pollutants out of storm water. Do not hose off hard surfaces. Keep water on site using swales, dry creek beds, and permeable hardscapes.</p>
	<p>Right Plant, Right Place</p> <p>Choose appropriate plants for our climate: drought tolerant, natives, or Sunset zone 8 or 9. Hydrozone (group plants with similar watering needs together). Know the microclimates in your yard and plant accordingly. Know before you grow—know the maximum height and spread of any plant or tree you plant and pick a space where it will fit. Avoid invasive plants.</p>

	<p>Promote IPM (Integrated Pest Management) First identify the pest, disease, or weed and use the least toxic solution for the problem. Practice good sanitation habits, crop rotation, and plant pest-resistant varieties. Use physical control methods-trap or spray off pests before resorting to chemical methods. Encourage beneficial insects to help naturally control pests. Use only organic, slow-release fertilizers. To control weeds, apply mulch, hand pick, or try soil solarization. Avoid the use of broad-spectrum pesticides.</p>
	<p>Build Healthy Soil Amend soil with compost to loosen heavy soils and increase water-holding capacity of lighter soils. Protect soil from compaction. Mulch planting beds to help retain soil moisture, moderate soil temperature, alleviate compaction, and smother weeds.</p>
	<p>Reduce Waste Know your lawn species and practice appropriate lawn care based on turf type. Grasscycle, allowing grass trimmings to decompose on the lawn. Compost on site or use the green-waste bin. Use slow-growing and low maintenance plants to reduce trimming waste. Practice Right Plant, Right Place to reduce unnecessary pruning. Reuse construction materials in the garden as structures, pathways, or garden art.</p>
	<p>Conserve Energy Plant shade trees to cool asphalt surfaces, lower air temperature, and reduce energy use. Plant deciduous trees on the south and west sides of the house to allow the sun's rays to warm the home in winter months.</p>
	<p>Create Wildlife Habitat Choose plants that provide a food source for wildlife (berries, seeds, pollen, and nectar). Use native plants to attract native wildlife. Provide a recirculating water source for drinking and bathing. Provide shelter with man-made houses or natural homes such as naturally-shaped bushes, thickets, or brush piles. Avoid the use of broad-spectrum pesticides. Use the least toxic solution to control pests in order to reduce the harmful effects on beneficial wildlife.</p>

<p>Berger Garden</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Be Water-wise- Permeable paving allows water to percolate into the soil. Drip irrigation reduces water use.  Right Plant, Right Place- Drought tolerant plants are utilized such as Ceanothus, Salvia, Sage and Lavender. Companion planting is practiced.  Reduce Waste- Yard trimmings are composted on site. Concrete "urbanite" and old tree stumps are used in the landscape.  Conserve Energy- Solar reduces overall energy use.  Create Wildlife Habitat- Plants and birdbath attract wildlife. Hawks, birds, chickens, and bees are present.
<p>Cole Garden</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Be water-wise- Mulch conserves soil moisture. Drip irrigation reduces water use.  Right Plant, Right Place- Plants are used for erosion control on the bluff.  Promote IPM- Insecticides are avoided. Mulch reduces weeds.  Create Wildlife Habitat- Hummingbirds, hawks, and a pet possum are present.

Cruz Garden	    	<p>Be Water-wise- Mulch conserves soil moisture. Swales and dry streambed collect rain water. Permeable hardscape (brick and flagstone) allows water to percolate into the soil.</p> <p>Promote IPM- Mulch reduces weeds.</p> <p>Build Healthy Soil- Soil is amended with compost which enhances both drainage and water retentive qualities, adds nutrients, and increases beneficial activity of microorganisms.</p> <p>Reduce Waste- On-site composting of lawn and plant clippings reduces green-waste. The resultant compost is returned to the landscape to build healthy soil.</p> <p>Conserve Energy- Large shade trees are planted on the south and west sides of home, reducing home cooling costs.</p>
Ogden Garden	    	<p>Be Water-wise- Compost is used as a mulch to retain soil moisture.</p> <p>Promote IPM- Pesticides are not used. Compost is used as a mulch to reduce weeds.</p> <p>Build Healthy Soil- Soil is amended with compost which enhances both drainage and water retentive qualities, adds nutrients, and increases beneficial activity of microorganisms.</p> <p>Conserve Energy- Solar conserves overall energy use.</p> <p>Create Wildlife Habitat- Pesticides are not used. Birds, bees, and insects are present.</p>
Smit-Pignotti Garden	      	<p>Be Water-wise- Absence of turf grass. Mulch conserves soil moisture. Permeable hardscape (flagstone) allows water to percolate into soil. Use of drought tolerant plants. Drip irrigation is placed between flagstone, to container plants, and to some planting beds.</p> <p>Right Plant, Right Place- Drought tolerant plants are utilized in most areas of the garden and sloping garden beds are planted to prevent soil erosion.</p> <p>Promote IPM- Mulch and drip irrigation control weeds. Drought tolerant plants use less fertilizer and pesticides.</p> <p>Build healthy soil- Mulch moderates soil temperature and eventually decomposes, adding nutrients to the soil. Small leaves on trees quickly decompose on site, adding nutrients to the soil.</p> <p>Reduce Waste- Slow-growing plants require less maintenance and produce less waste. Small leaves from trees can be allowed to naturally decompose quickly on site. No lawn creates less waste.</p> <p>Conserve Energy- Deciduous trees and large shrubs on the south and west sides of home provide shade in the summer and will allow the sun's rays to warm the home in the winter.</p> <p>Create Wildlife Habitat- Plants provide food for hummingbirds, bees, and other insects.</p>
Garden of the Sun	     	<p>Be Water-wise- Mulch conserves soil moisture. Drip irrigation is used in most areas of the garden. Many drought tolerant perennials are present.</p> <p>Right Plant, Right Place- Lawn is kept to a minimum and there are examples of lawn alternatives on display.</p> <p>Promote IPM- Mulch reduces weeds.</p> <p>Build Healthy Soil- Soil is amended with compost which enhances both drainage and water retentive qualities, adds nutrients, and increases beneficial activity of microorganisms.</p> <p>Reduce Waste- Garden clippings are composted on site. Food scraps are disposed of in the vermicompost bin. A chipper/shredder is used to reduce woody prunings into chips to be used as mulch in planting beds.</p> <p>Create Wildlife Habitat- Plants are utilized that attract birds, insects, and bees. Water features are available for birds and butterflies.</p>