



Lawns & Groundcovers: What's In and What's Out



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CALIFORNIA has been enjoying
the good life for many years!

Great Climate! We can grow
anything and almost everything.

However increasing urbanization
and lack of rainfall reminds us
of the scarcity of **WATER**
throughout the State.



In the defense of LAWNS ...

There is a lot of LAWN BASHING going on nowadays.

They can tolerate and adapt to human abuse

- Different soils

- Salt water & gray water

- High pH

- Trap dust

- Prevent erosion

- Provide a cooling effect in the environment

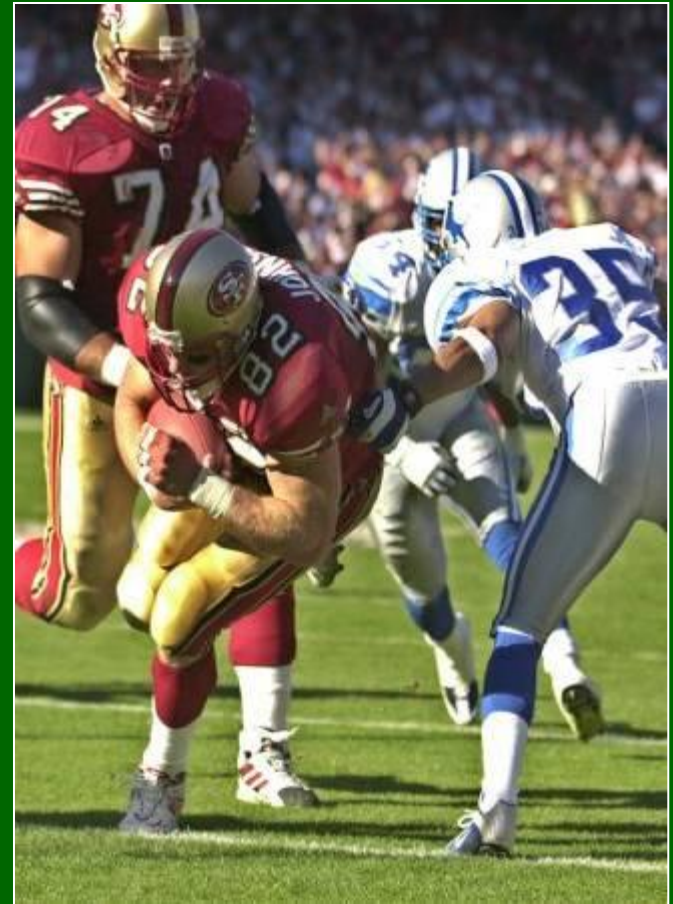
They can be grown and maintained in a healthy, environmentally friendly way.

In many cases there is no substitute for a turfgrass lawn



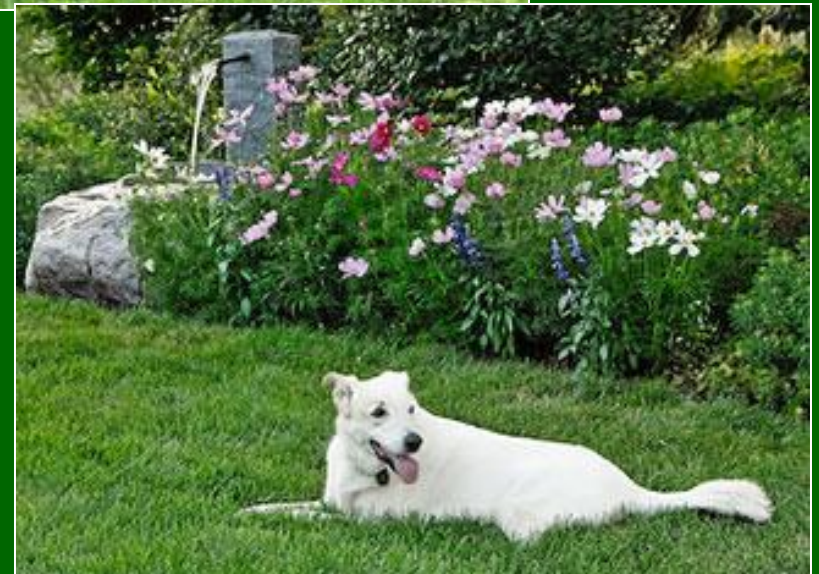
Foot traffic
Equipment
Safety
Longevity

Years of study have proven that they are safer than many other surfaces and groundcovers.





Our pets need some lawn areas for play and for cooling.





*PEOPLE need some lawn
for calming.*



**But WE might be a little “out of control”
in our demand for a picture perfect lawn
in every front yard ...**



**WE might be a little
“out of control”**

**Especially when we
are limited in resources
(water)**



**and our
artistic
designs
are lavish &
inefficient**

WE might be a little “out of control”

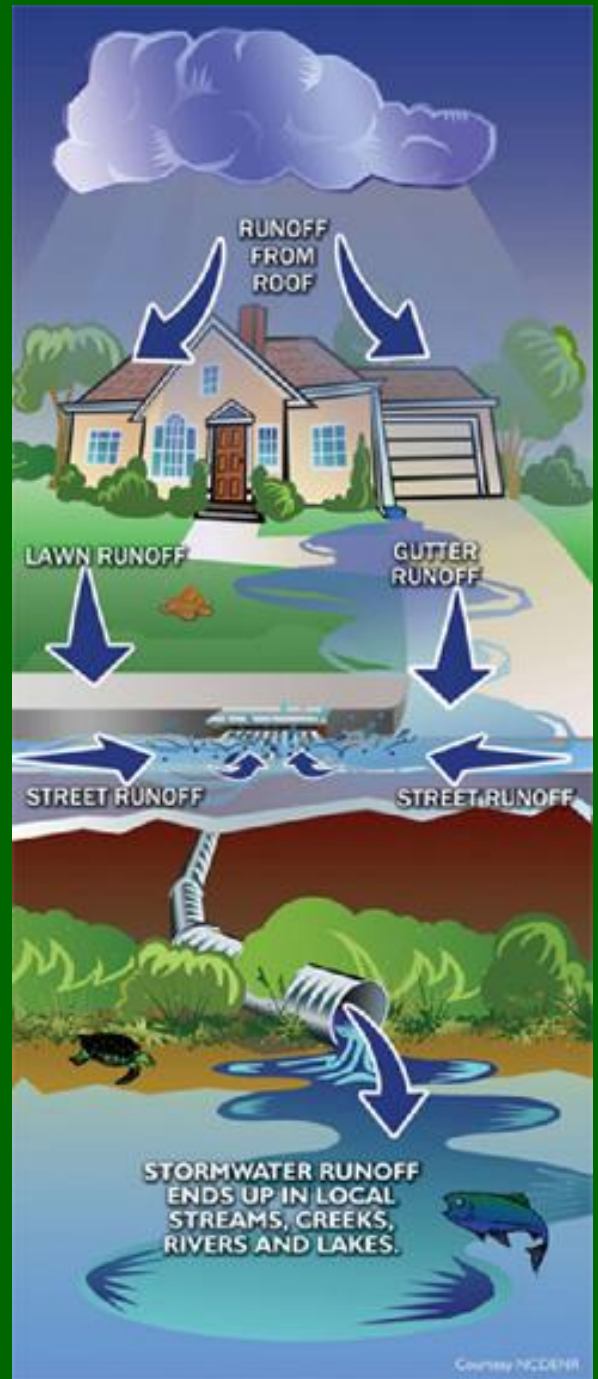
Especially when we

- **create excess pollution with lawns**

**noise & air pollution
from mowers and
blowers**

**water pollution from
excess fertilizers &
pesticides**

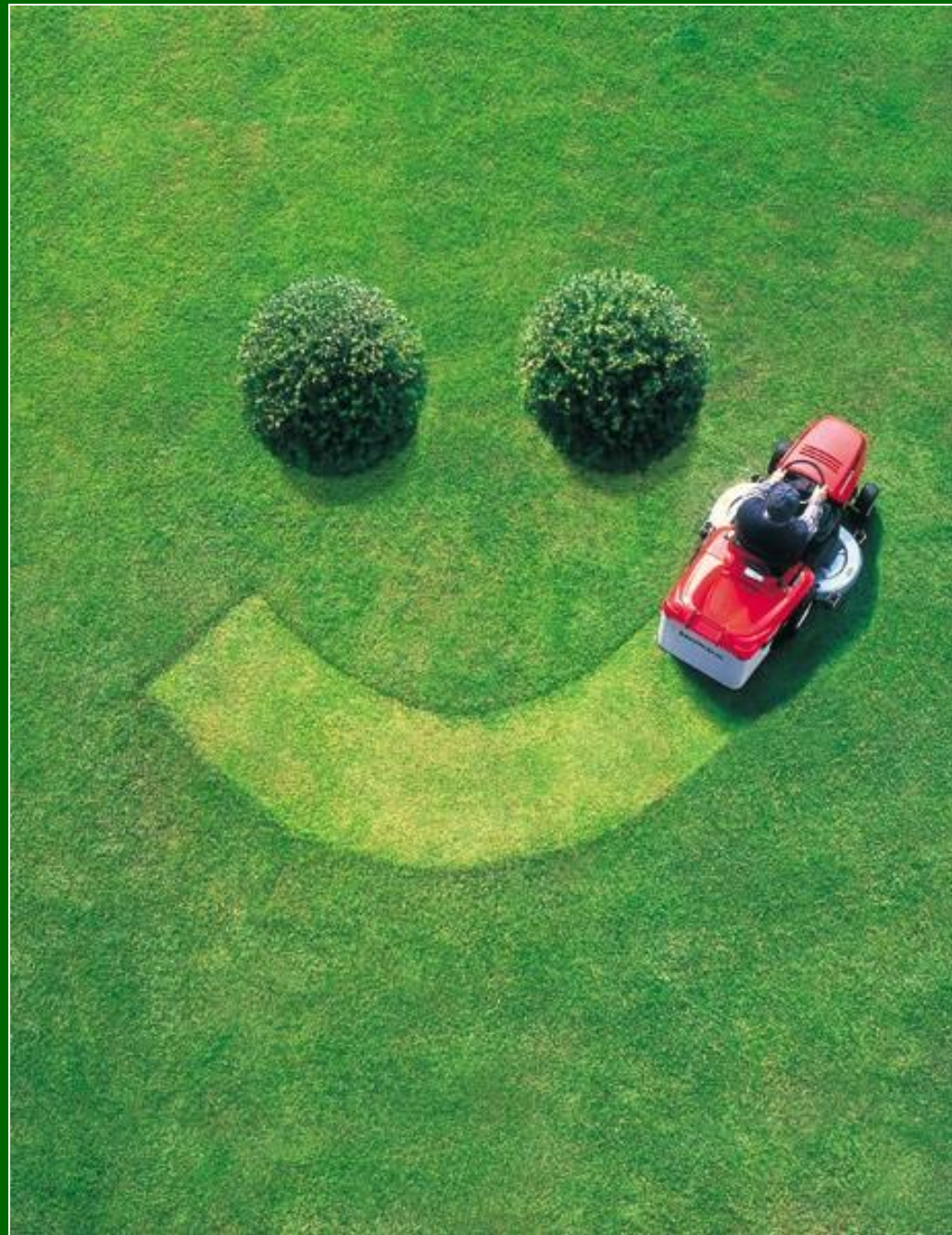




WE might be a little “out of control”

Especially when we

- do not use our lawns for other than “frilly” aesthetics
- and we can get away with this!



and this!



***So... how have we chosen our lawns?
What about groundcovers?***



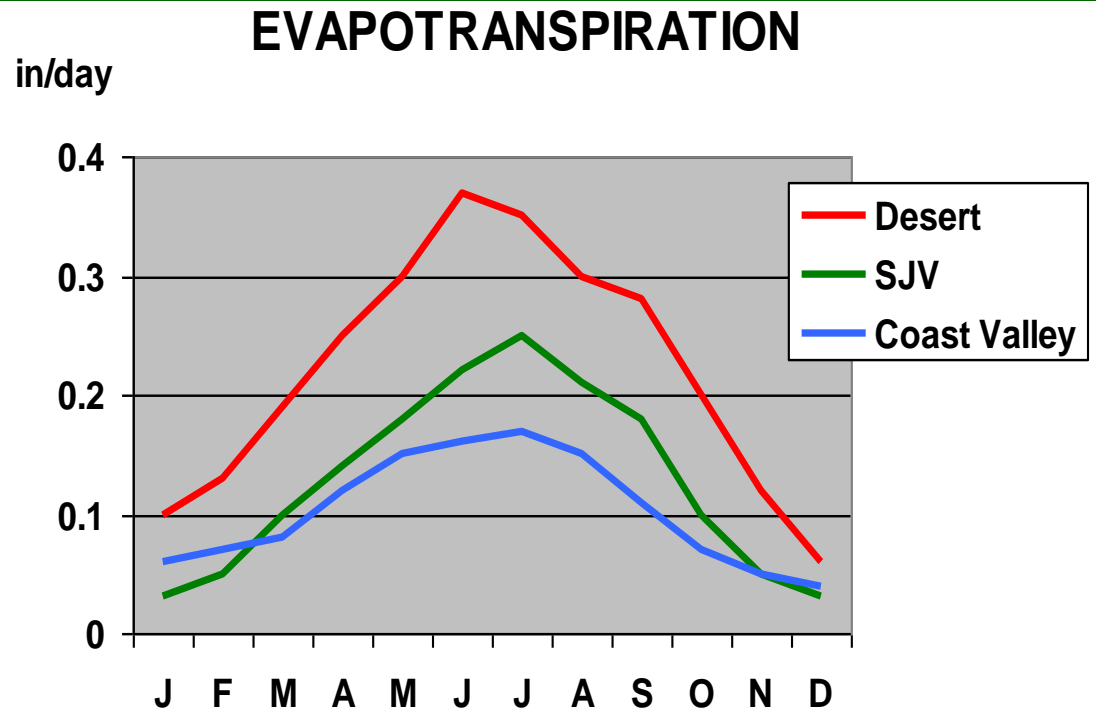
COOL & WARM SEASON GRASSES

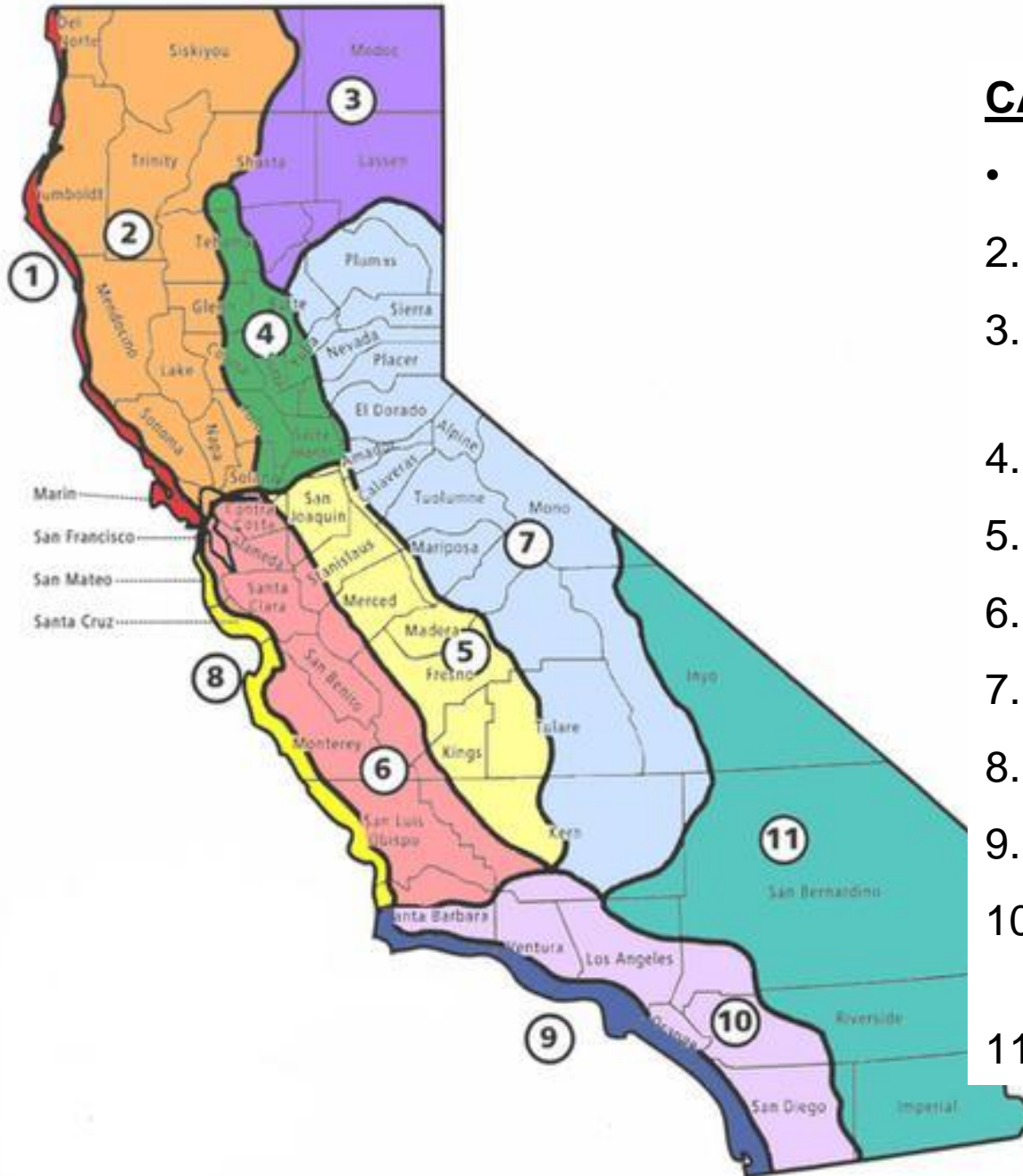
- **Kentucky bluegrass**
- **Bentgrass**
(Colonial, highland, and creeping)
- **Fescue**
(tall, fineleaf)
- **Ryegrass**
(annual & perennial)

- **Bermudagrass**
 - Common bermuda
 - Hybrid bermuda
 - Tifway, Tifway II
 - Santa Ana, Tifdwarf
- **St. Augustine**
- **Kikuyugrass**
- **Zoysia**
- **Buffalograss**



CA has a network of Weather Stations - CIMIS

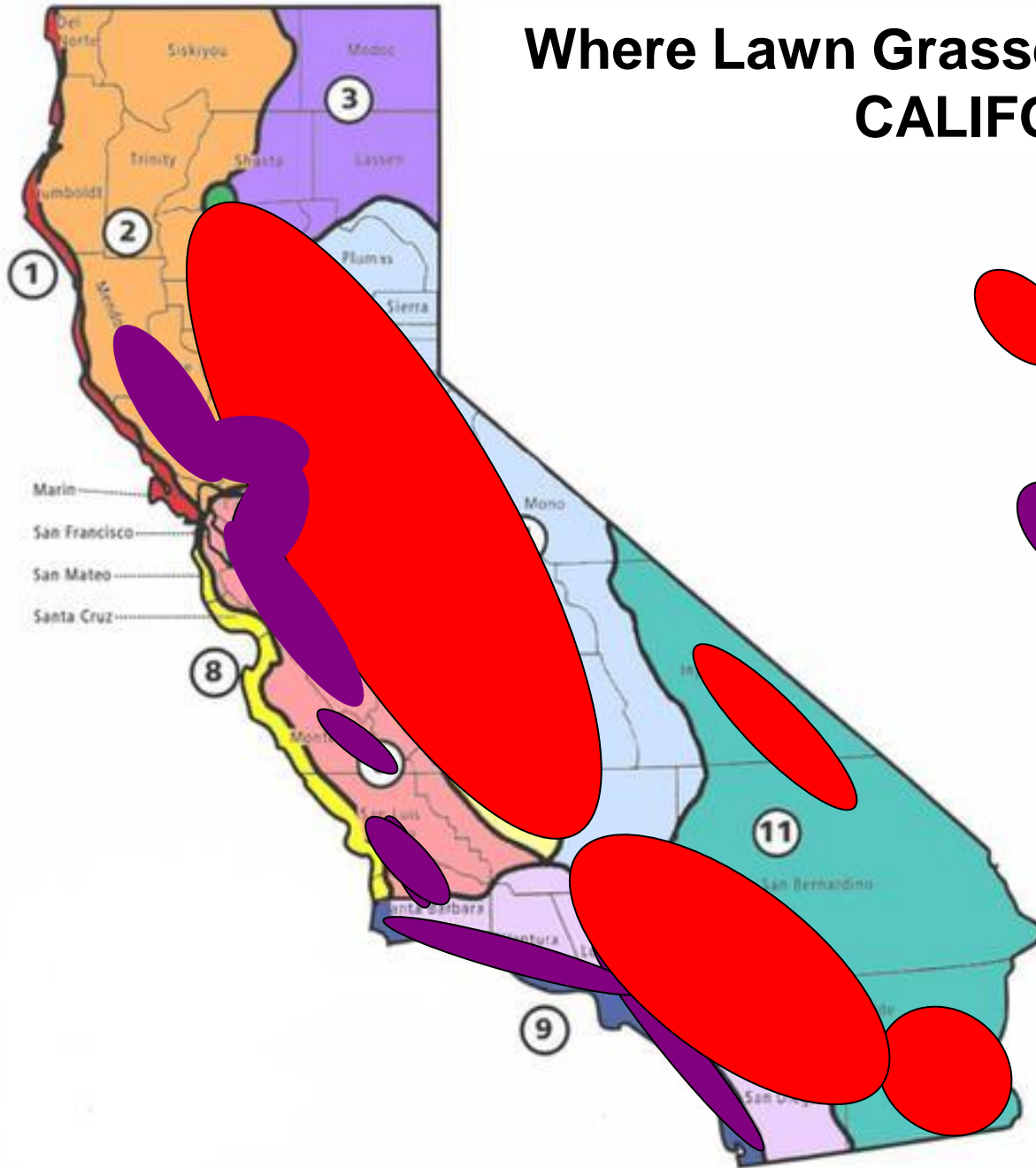




CA Climate & Growing Zones

- Northern California Coast
- 2. Northern Inland Valleys
- 3. Northeastern California Mountain Valleys
- 4. Sacramento Valley
- 5. San Joaquin Valley
- 6. Central Inland Valleys
- 7. Sierra
- 8. Central California Coast'
- 9. Southern California Coast
- 10. Southern California Inland Valleys
- 11. Southern California Deserts

Where Lawn Grasses are BEST FIT in CALIFORNIA



WARM SEASON
(subtropical)

warm & cool
season

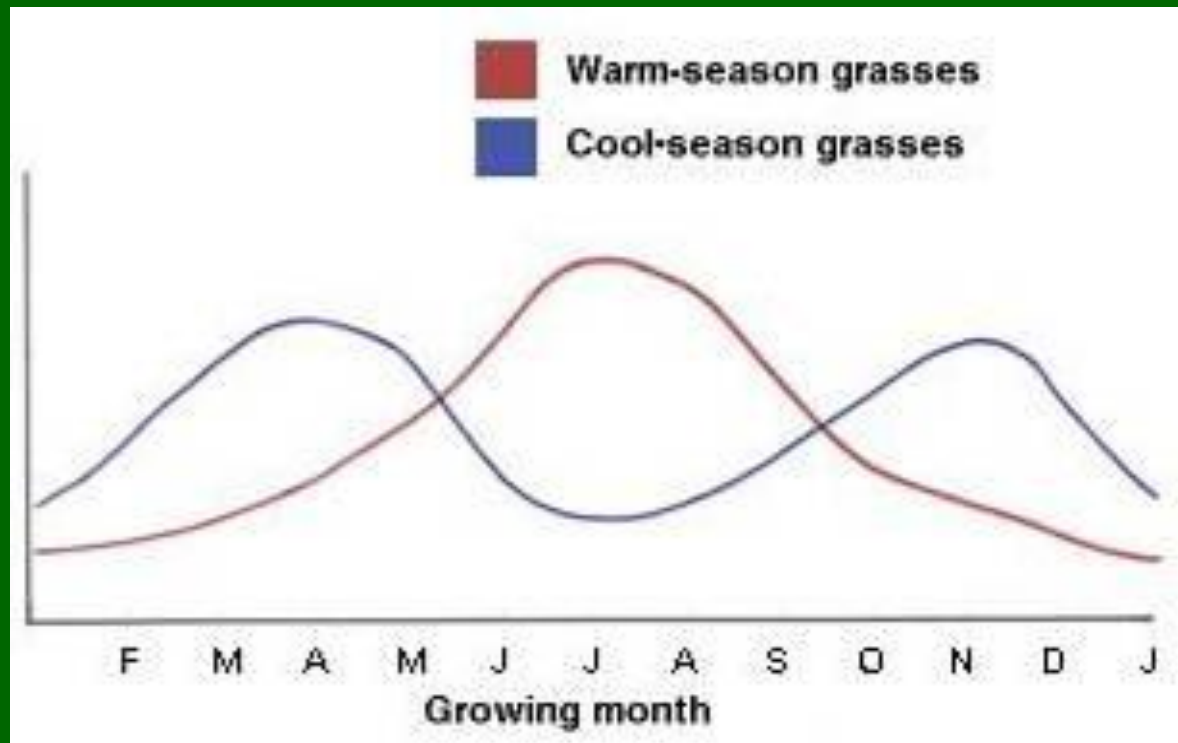
COOL SEASON
(temperate)

Warm season bermudagrass goes dormant during winter months.

Cool season tall fescue grass continues to grow.



Active Growth Months of Cool & Warm Season Turfgrasses



Cool Season – Tall Fescue
GROWS in SPRING & FALL
6 months of active growth

Feb 15 - Jun 15 & Sept 15 - Nov 15

Warm Season - Bermudagrass
GROWS in SUMMER
6 months of active growth

Apr 15 thru Oct 15

Minutes to Water: San Joaquin Valley & Foothills

Warm-season turfgrasses					Cool-season turfgrasses			
<i>Minutes per week to irrigate if your hourly sprinkler output is:</i>					<i>Minutes per week to irrigate if your hourly sprinkler output is:</i>			
0.5 in	1.0 in	1.5 in	2.0 in		0.5 in	1.0 in	1.5 in	2.0 in
100	50	34	25	SPRING	134	67	45	34
160	80	53	40	SUMMER	213	106	71	53
71	36	24	18	FALL	95	48	32	24
turn off controller and water in spring				WINTER	turn off controller and water only on occasion			

Most people won't adjust their sprinkler controller on a monthly basis. We suggest SEASONAL adjustments. Average the amount of minutes needed to water for the seasons:

Spring: March, April, May

Summer: June, July, August

Fall: September, October, November

Winter: Turn off the controller December, January, February and just water on occasion.

COOL SEASON GRASSES

- **Kentucky bluegrass**
- **Bentgrass**
(Colonial, highland, and creeping)
- **Fescue**
(tall & fineleaf)
- **Ryegrass**
(annual & perennial)

What's *NEW*?



Native Bentgrass™

- ***Agrostis pallens***

Slender robust plants with narrow blades

Establishes well on most soil types

Grows in full sun and filtered sunlight

Aggressive creeping growth habits which result in a dense sod



Delta Grasslands Mix™

- ***Molate Fescue - Festuca rubra***
- ***One-sided bluegrass - Poa sucunda***
- ***Junegrass - Koeleria macrantha.***

Blades are dark green and vary from fine to moderately coarse

Prefers moist soils and in a maintained setting will require limited irrigation

Thrives in full sun and grows in partial shade

What's NEW?

Mow free sod

Mow-Free Gives you a Beautiful Meadow Look with Very Little Effort.

Mow-Free is a blend of sheeps, hard and creeping red fescues that creates a meadow-like look. **Mow-free** can be left unmowed if desired and has good shade resistance. It works very well on slopes and on unmowed roughs for golf courses.



Mow Free



BE AWARE that most of these are NOT adapted to SJV summer conditions

What's NEW?

FINE LEAF Fescues

Non-mowed Grasses for Landscapes

- **Creeping Red Fescue** (2 types)
 - Strong creeper
 - Weak creeper
- **Chewing Fescue**
- **Sheep Fescue**
- **Hard Fescue**



Eino Plus
Tall Fescue
Kentucky
Bluegrass Mix

St.
Augustine-
grass

Hillside
Fine Fescue
Blend

Sea Spray
Seashore
Paspalum

UC Riverside Sept 2009

WARM SEASON GRASSES

- **Bermudagrass**
 - Common bermuda
 - Hybrid bermuda
 - Tifway, Tifway II
 - Santa Ana, Tifdwarf
- **St. Augustine**
- **Kikuyugrass**
- **Zoysia**
- **Buffalograss**



Buffalograss selection at UC Riverside – 1990s

What's NEW?

UC Verde
Buffalograss

DeAnza
Zoysiagrass

Bull's Eye
Bermuda-
grass

UC Riverside Sept 2009

Buffalograss - 'UC Verde'



Winter Dormancy

*May be a little longer
than bermudagrass*

Buffalograss 'UC Verde'



Infrequent mowing required

Drought tolerant

*Needs slightly less water than
bermudagrass*

Buffalograss - 'UC Verde'



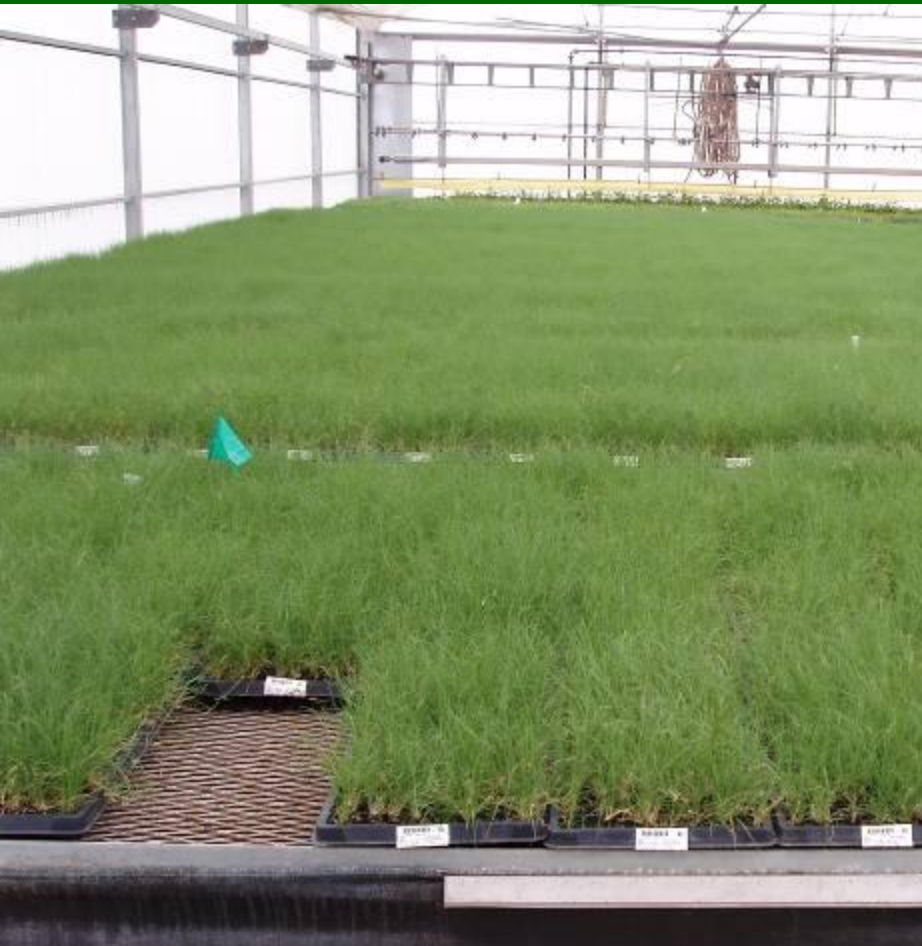
Delicate creeping stolons

Long internodes

*finer leaf texture than
bermudagrass*



***Available in California
through Takao Nursery -
Fresno***









A photograph of a well-maintained lawn. The lawn is a vibrant green color and appears to be made of Buffalo grass. In the foreground, there are several plants, including purple flowers and tall grasses. In the background, there is a house with green siding and a stone base. The house has a window and a door. The overall scene is a lush, green outdoor space.

***Established Buffalograss lawn
'UC Verde'***





80% water

60% water

Shading study

40% water

UC Verde

Alternative Turf

Tall Fescue

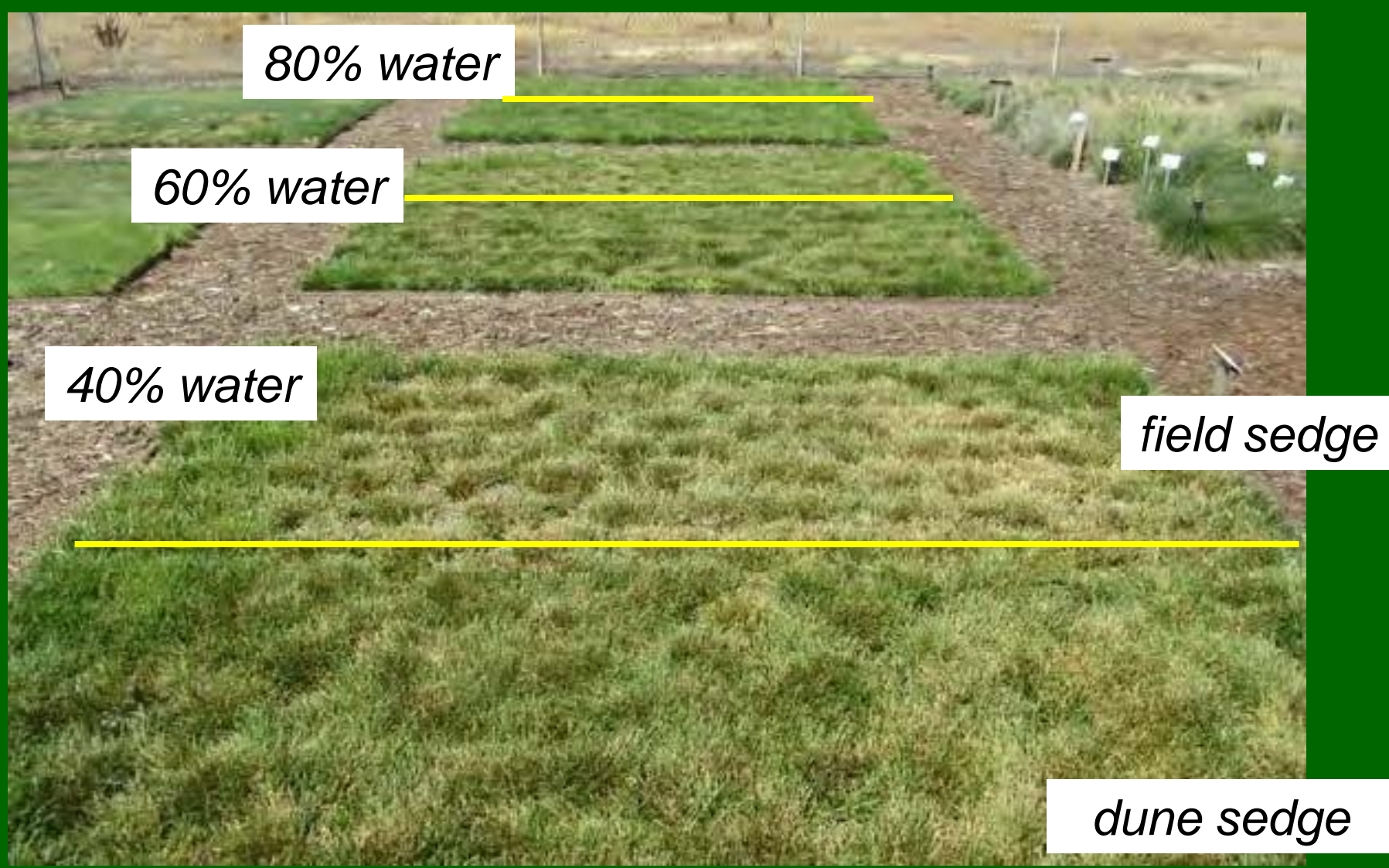
Alternative Turf

tall fescue

40% water



*UC Verde in 40% ET grew less, but showed little stress.
Tall fescue shows severe stress especially in a patch
that was later hand watered to keep it alive.*



80% water

60% water

40% water

field sedge

dune sedge

Carex plots in early September.

Field sedge = *C. praegracilis*

Dune sedge = *C. pansa*

Field sedge showed late summer dormancy even in the 80% ETo plots.

Alternative turf species

tufted hairgrass



Molate fescue



*With 60% ETo applied in late summer,
both species show stress. Watering improved color.*

Let's Use Lawns where really Needed

Reduce the size
of your lawn

Ask yourself

*Do I really need
ALL of my
lawn?*



FRONT Yards



REDUCED Lawn

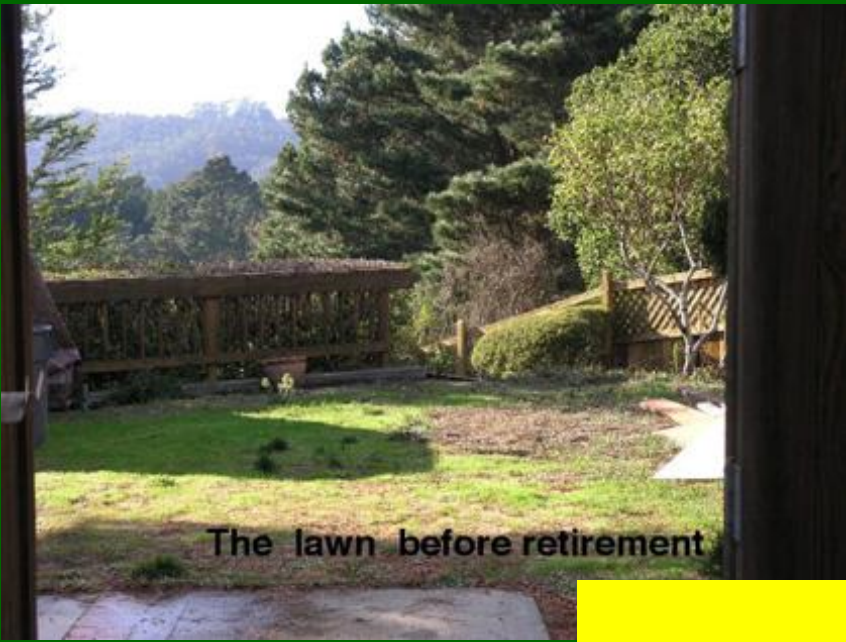
SIDE Yard

FALL in the SJV

BACK Yard



REDUCED Lawn



The lawn before retirement



NO LAWN



AMY Stewart Mendocino

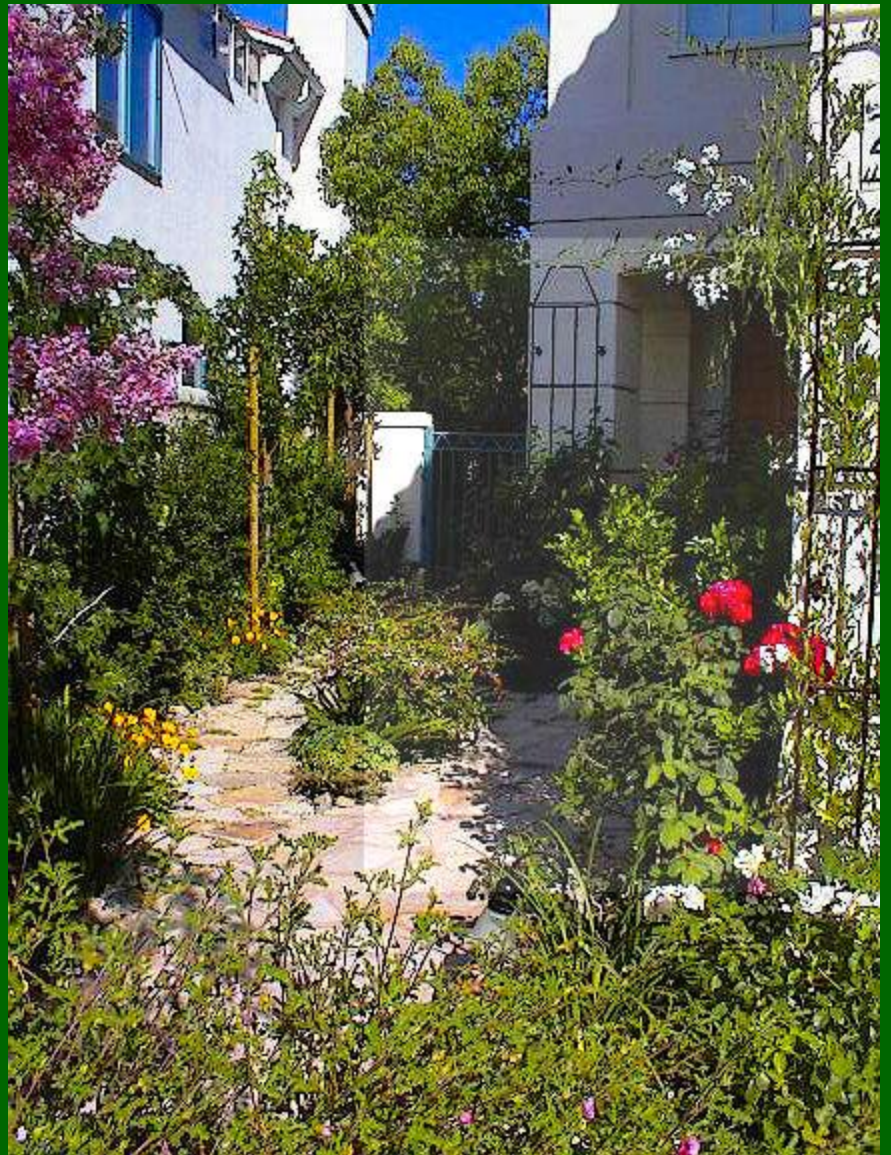


NO LAWN





BEFORE



AFTER



NO LAWN



NO LAWN



NO LAWN



BEFORE - LAWN



AFTER - NO LAWN





BEFORE - LAWN



**AFTER
No Lawn**



BEFORE



AFTER

What about Groundcovers?



Several Creeping Oreganos make good groundcovers and can be used over large areas



Creeping Golden Marjoram –
(Origanum vulgare aureum)

Golden green in spring & fall;
dark green in summer



Mounding marjoram

(Origanum marjoram)

‘Betty Rollins’ – dwarf 3-6” tall
Darker green with hint of red

Creeping Oregano (*Origanum vulgare* 'humile')



Creeping Oregano in the Advertisement

Creeping Oregano in Fresno



oregano - WINTER



*oregano – SUMMER
mowed to 2" every 6 weeks
about 5 times/summer*



Lavender THYME in FRESNO

***Groundcovers
WILL CHANGE their look
and don't always look good
every month***

Emerald green foliage



Pink flowers in June - July



Dead pink flowers in August



Woolly Thyme

(*Thymus pseudolanuginosus*)



woolly thyme - Ideal

FRESNO

woolly thyme - SUMMER



woolly thyme - WINTER



Establishing Groundcovers



*Plants may be slow to establish
Mulch heavily between plants
to suppress weeds
to encourage rooting*



*Named varieties provide
uniform appearance in large
plantings*

Waterwise Groundcovers

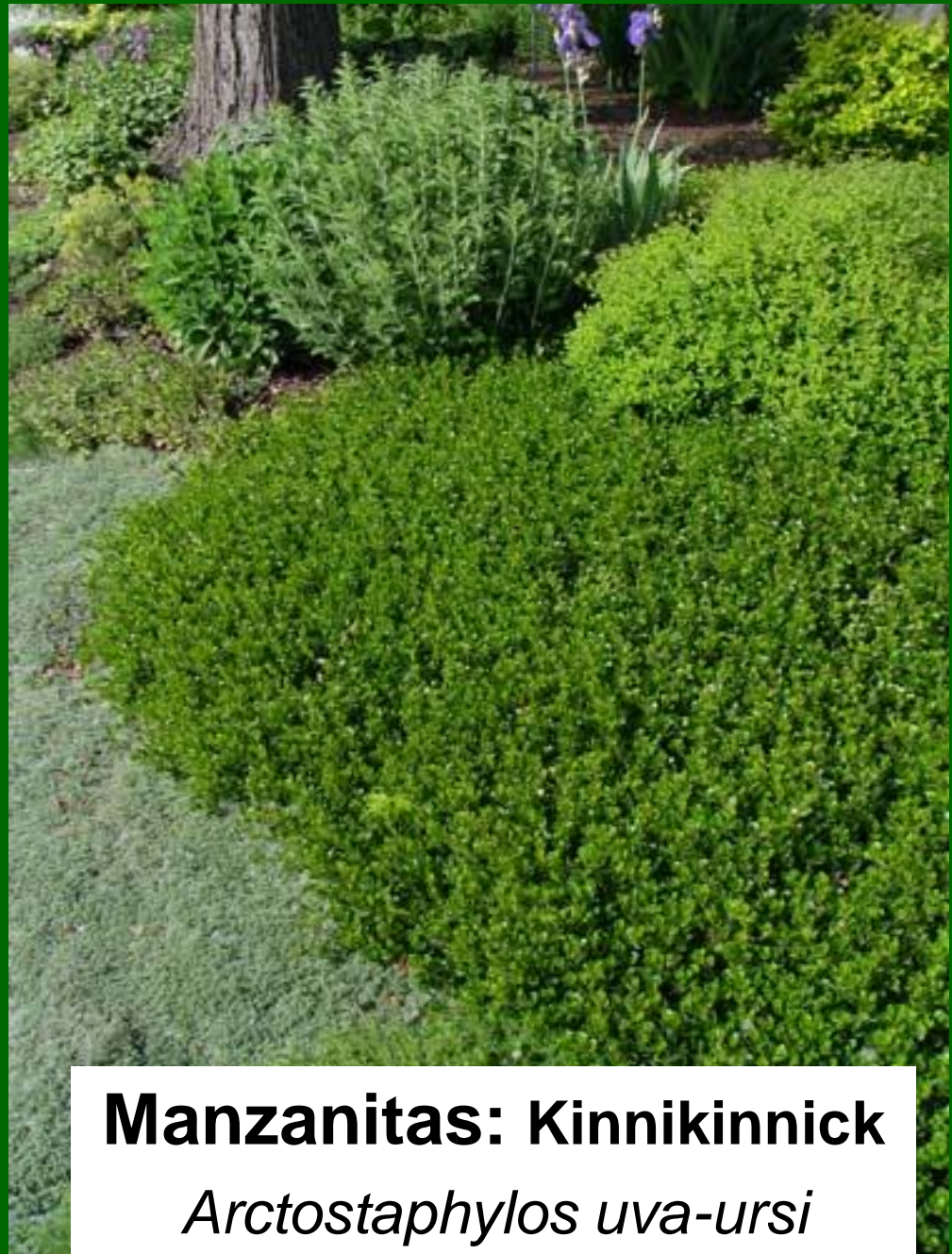


Woolly veronica - *Veronica pectinata*

Waterwise Groundcovers



Woolly veronica
Veronica pectinata



Manzanitas: Kinnikinnick
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

Waterwise Groundcovers



Snow-in-summer

Cerastium tomentosum





California Native Aster

Lessingia filaginifolia
var. *californica*

‘Silver Carpet’

Creeping juniper



***Juniperus horizontalis* in winter with
Juniperus sabina var. *tamariscifolia***



Waterwise Groundcovers



Buckwheat

Eriogonum umbellatum

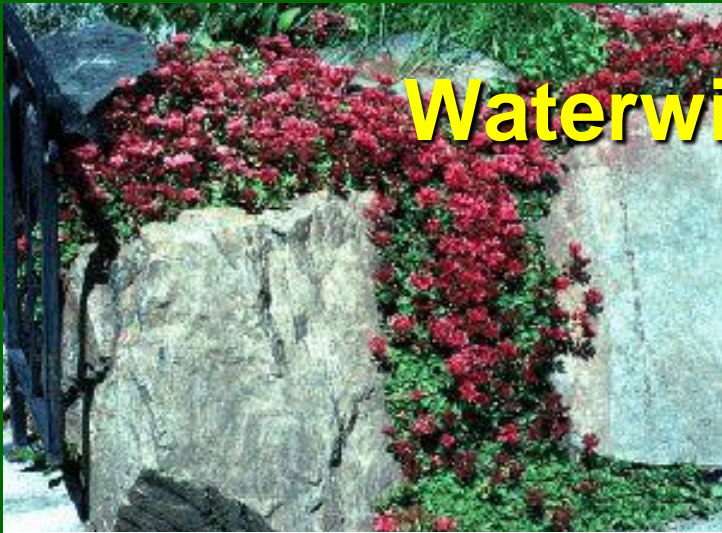


Buckwheat

*Eriogonum
umbellatum*



Waterwise Groundcovers



Sedum spurium
2 row stonecrop



Creeping thyme – Thymus spp.



Wineleaf cinquefoil
Potentilla tridentata



Beach strawberry -
Fragaria chiloensis

Lambs ears
Stachys byzantina





Pussytoes – Antennaria spp.



Globularia spp.

Globe daisy



Mahonia repens

Creeping mahonia

Waterwise Groundcovers



Lantana hybrids – Gold Rush



*Trailing Lantana -
L. montevidensis*

Waterwise Groundcovers



Trailing Indigo Bush
–*Dalea greggii*

Native to Chihuahua
Desert



Creeping germander –
Teucrium chamaedrys
'Prostratum'

Waterwise Groundcovers



Myoporum - *Myoporum parvifolium*



Cacti and Succulents



Selected Hardy Plants for Waterwise Landscapes



MOOR Grass
Seslari heuffleriana



BLUE fescue
Festuca ovina



Miscanthus spp.

'Gracillimus' -
Maiden grass

'Graziella' - More
upright than
'Gracillimus'





California Native Grasses

***Alkali sacaton –
Sporobolus airoides***

***Idaho fescue – Festuca
idahoensis***

***Tufted hairgrass -
Deschampsia caespitosa***

***Purple Needlegrass –
Nassella pulchra***

***Deergrass –
Muhlenbergia rigens***

***California Fescue –
Festuca californica***

***Pine bluegrass – Poa
secunda***



Thank You.

Are there any questions?



**For more lawn info: www.ipm.ucdavis.edu
UC Guide to Healthy Lawns**