



UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

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Mediterranean Garden Objective and Design

This garden demonstrates the types of plants that grow in the Mediterranean regions throughout the world. A Mediterranean climate generally has very hot, dry summers with temperatures in the mid 80's to 100's degree Fahrenheit. Winters are mild and cool averaging between 40-50 degrees F with most rainfall occurring between autumn and spring.

There are five Mediterranean regions in the world. The first includes those countries that border the Mediterranean Sea. Think of Spain, Italy, Greece, Israel, parts of Morocco even though there are many more. The second is the region around South-western Australia and also a small part of New Zealand. The third is the Cape Province of South Africa. The fourth is an area in central Chile. The last is the region of California where this garden is located as well as the Sacramento region, most of central California and the southern California coast. Many of the plants in these regions do well with infrequent to no watering.

Each of the above five regions are represented in this Mediterranean Garden. For simplicity, the individual regions are called South African, Australian, Chilean, Mediterranean, and California Adaptable. These individual regions provide visitors an understanding about the wide variety and range of plants that can be grown in these regions. It also shows that plants in other Mediterranean regions outside California can be grown here. Most of the plants are easily available. For example, the use of the UC Davis Arboretum All-stars was used wherever possible. Once these plants are established, they will represent water-wise gardening. Therefore these plants are ideal for the types of gardens we have in western El Dorado County!

We have also shown structures, both cheap and easy, to build for anyone's garden. The structures include; a rebar arbor to train the Italian cypress to arch over the two garden entrances, a rebar arch in the Chilean region that supports a climbing Chilean jasmine, a post and rebar structure in the Mediterranean region to help espalier three citrus trees, a rock sitting bench in the Australian region, a home-made gazing ball in the South African region, and finally a rebar border between the Native Garden and the Mediterranean Garden.