



## **PLANNING FOR A NEW LANDSCAPE DESIGN**

Recently at an in-person workshop at Las Flores Learning Garden the UC Master Gardeners provided information on rethinking your landscaping and garden design. Part of the workshop was a tour of the 3 gardens that have been planted to date – Low Maintenance, Pollinator, and California Native Garden. The Low Maintenance garden is heading into its second winter, and for the other two, this will be their first. The most interesting plant for me is manzanita because it's in all 3 gardens. There is Emerald Carpet in the pollinator, and native gardens, and Little Sur in the low maintenance garden (which I've shortened to LoMain – and I just had to add that to my dictionary). There are a few that are in 2: Aster, native and low maintenance; Buckwheat (native and pollinator) and a bunch of sage/salvias. Something to consider when you're working towards the goals of all 3 gardens. Take a look at the lists of plants in the various gardens which is located on our UC Master Gardener Las Flores Learning Garden website: <https://napamg.ucanr.edu/DemoGarden/>

Most of the plants in these 3 gardens thrive in the same conditions – part or full sun (4-8 hours a day, respectively), need little to very little water, and can tolerate most soils. While we, as Master Gardeners, certified by the UC Davis Cooperative Extension, advocate for these types of gardens because they are the friendliest to the ecosystem and highly sustainable, depending on your interests, you may want to create gardens with different needs and styles. We suggest you print off the satellite image of your address and use it as a map. This will help you scale what you want to plant where and be aware of areas that may conflict in style and plant needs.

Another very good thing to do is to take a picture every 2 hours starting close to dawn and ending at dusk from different vantage points to check the shade to sunlight ratios. I did this when we were planning our vineyard. One reason we bought our property was for the open field. When I took the pictures, I realized there were limits to where the vines should go, so we followed that plan and eliminated some rows where there was simply too much shade and/or droppings from pine trees, which may have changed the essence of the grapes. Another way to find out the sunlight coverage in your garden is to go out at midnight during a full moon and view your landscape. Where you see the moonlight falling THAT is where the sunlight will be falling in six months time. (place picture here)

If you're planning to do the landscape overhaul in spring, try to do this every few months during the winter months so you can grasp the sun cycles over the course of a few seasons. However, since most of us don't or can't plan that far ahead, be sure to anticipate changes over the year. Planting at a spot that gets a lovely amount of sun in the winter could be too much in the summer. Or a building could block the sun in the winter when the plants need it the most. We made that mistake when we put our raised veggie beds in. They don't get as much sun in the winter as they do in the summer. If we'd built them just a few yards away, it would have been much better.

Visit our UC Master Gardener Napa County website and look at the 'Step by Step Garden Design' link: [Step by Step Garden Design - UC Master Gardeners • Napa County](#)

In this wonderful informational file you will find lots of information to help you with your garden redo process. The most important thing to remember is to have fun!

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