

Life Beyond Lawn



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Ecological Landscape Design

Overview



- ❧ Steps to Converting Your Landscape
- ❧ Tips and Tricks
- ❧ Plants

Steps to Converting



1. Assess your plants
2. Assess your irrigation
3. Make a plan
4. Install/convert irrigation to most efficient for the space
5. Plant

Assess your plants and trees



- ❧ Remove
 - ❧ High maintenance plants
 - ❧ High water users
 - ❧ Anything you don't like

- ❧ Build around what you like/looks good
- ❧ Move plants together with similar water needs
- ❧ Make a list of plants you like and your empty spaces

Assess your irrigation



- ❧ Find your valves –what do they water?
- ❧ Which stations on your controller are assigned to each valve?
- ❧ Find all sprinkler heads
- ❧ Find old drip lines



Make a plan



- ❧ How will you use the space?
- ❧ Design style
- ❧ Habitat, edibles
- ❧ Paths, seating areas
- ❧ Rainwater catchment, greywater
- ❧ Irrigation



Rainwater Catchment



Greywater



Hydrozone




- ❧ Group plants on valves by water needs
- ❧ Highest water user will always call the shots
- ❧ Use WUCOLS online to discover the water needs of plants

BEFORE MATURITY

Most plants are *high water users*

- Trees – 3-5 years of regular water
- Shrubs -1 full year of regular water
- Perennials – 1 year or 1 spring & summer (for spring and summer planting)



A photograph of a garden bed in the foreground, covered with a layer of brown mulch. Several green plants with small red flowers are growing in the bed. In the background, a white house with a dark roof is visible, partially obscured by a large tree on the left. The sky is clear and blue.

Rule of Thumb:

New plantings – frequent water until roots have grown into surrounding soil

- summer: every 2 or 3 days
- Spring /fall- 1x/wk (depending on rainfall)



Effective Irrigation



Wet the soil to a depth of 12-18"
Check soil moisture with a soil probe

Inline drip systems



Tips



Sheet mulching



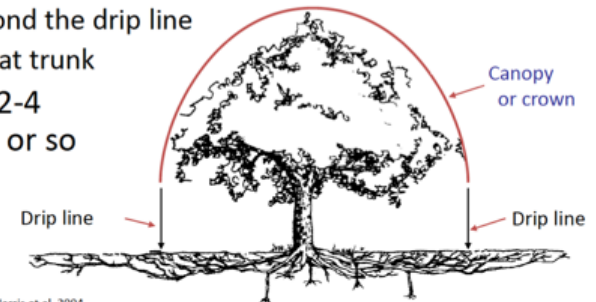
Save our Trees



- ❧ Water your trees
- ❧ Water slowly and deeply
- ❧ Check CCUH website for watering methods and scheduling.

Tree Irrigation

- Deep to 2 -3 feet
- Beneath the canopy
 - Beyond the drip line
 - Not at trunk
- Every 2-4 weeks or so



Graphic adapted from Harris et al. 2004

Consider Winter Interest



Winter Interest



Consider mature size



Nov 2009



April 2012

Irrigation Efficiency Rebate



City of Folsom

<https://www.folsom.ca.us/ewr/rebates.asp>

Plants



Bringing Nature Home



Photo: Tim Wong

Pipevine Swallowtail

❧ “If you care about the collapse of butterflies and other pollinators, this is a simple tool you can use to help in a very real way,” said ecologist Douglas Tallamy, one of the nation’s most published researchers on the specialized relationships between native plants and insects.

❧ Research shows 90 percent of butterfly and moth species can only eat the native plant species with which they’ve co-evolved. If a given species of butterfly or moth can’t find its particular host plants in the area it resides, it will die out in that location. **“The problem is loss of habitat, so restoring these host plants to our neighborhoods and green spaces is a powerful solution.”**

52 Natoma Street, Folsom



- ❧ 376 plants native to this spot
- ❧ 92 butterflies & moths native to this spot
- ❧ 295 host plants (80 confirmed)
- ❧ Native trees host the most different species of caterpillars
- ❧ Keystone species: oaks, cottonwood, pine, willow and wild cherry/plum

Plant a locally native oak:

Valley, Interior Live, Blue, Black, or Leather



Plant a coyote bush



Ecosystem Resiliency



- ❧ Ecosystem: your garden, your city, your watershed, your state, your country, your continent, your planet.
- ❧ If more than 30% of plants in ecosystem are non native, the ecosystem is no longer resilient.

Silver Lupine



Silvery Blue



Host to 10 species



Photo:
Ron Wolf

Common Snowberry



spring



Rounded form. Deciduous.
Light green leaves. Fine texture.
Winter interest.

summer



Photos by Pete
Veilleux, East Bay
Wilds

Common Snowberry



Variable Checkerspot



Host to 9 additional species, with
19 more likely

winter



Photos by Pete
Veilleux, East
Bay Wilds

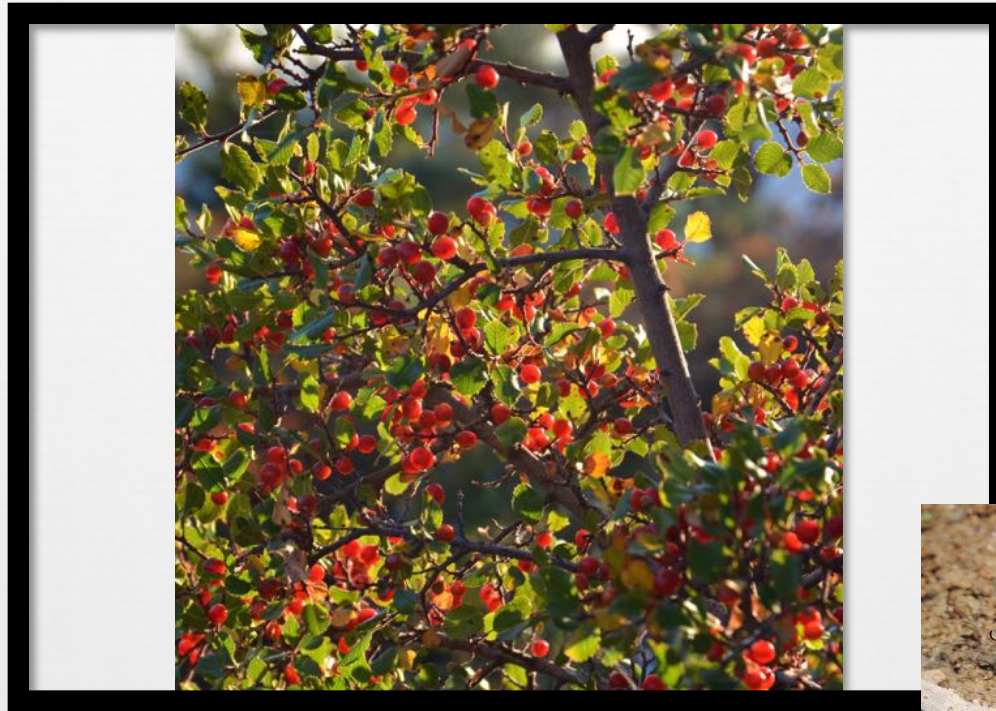


Photo by Pete
Veilleux, East Bay
Wilds



Spiny Redberry



Evergreen shrub, upright habit, fine texture, dark green leaves, bird habitat, screening, sun or shade. Host for Pale Tiger Swallowtail and 6 other species, with 12 additional species likely.

The end



œ Now it's your turn to
transform your
landscape.