

SMART & ATTRACTIVE LAWN ALTERNATIVES:



WHY DO WE LIKE LAWNS?

- Lawns do some things best
- Green denotes lush, moist, abundant
- Historically “safe”—no hidden enemies
- Maybe we don’t know what else to do

- Traditional—England & East Coast
- Negative space is a restful contrast
- To fit in with neighborhood style

WHAT’S WRONG WITH LAWNS?

- Monoculture is ecologically unbalanced
- High fossil fuel input—gasoline, chemicals
- Reduces habitat diversity

- High water usage
- Pesticides & herbicides are poisonous
- Labor intensive

STYLES & INTERPRETATIONS

- California Native
- Modern/Contemporary
- Woodland
- Mediterranean

- Asian/Japanese
- English Cottage Garden
- Formal/European/Italian/French
- Eclectic

IDEAS

- Children’s Garden
- Butterfly Garden
- Habitat Garden
- Sculpture Garden
- Herb Garden
- Zen Meditation Garden
- Cactus/Desert Garden
- Games
- Electric train garden
- Outdoor camping area with a fire circle

- Fairy Garden
- Water Garden
- Bird Watching Garden
- Edible Garden
- Cutting Flower Garden
- Feng Shui Garden
- Rock Garden
- Dog garden (include a ‘digging area’ to hide bones)

RESOURCES

Going Native Garden Tour - April goingnativegardentour.org

California Native Plant Society www.cnps.org

Professional Lawn Replacement www.naturalfrontyards.com (South Bay area, so. of highway 92)

California Native Garden Foundation www.cngf.org

Sustainable Landscaping Site with lists of professionals and pictures

www.landscapestandards.com

HERBAL "LAWNS"

- Woolly Thyme, Creeping Thyme, Elfin Thyme
- Yarrow
- Corsican Mint
- Chamomile
- Sweet Woodruff
- Yerba Buena

MEADOWS of "No Mow" Grasses

- Seasonal changes
- Flowers sway in the breeze
- Can be mowed as a traditional lawn
- Can be weed whacked annually
- Provide habitat for birds, butterflies
- Can be interplanted with wildflowers

Creeping Grasses

Dune Sedge *Carex pansa*
California Field Sedge *C. praegracilis*
Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*
(*Molate and Jughandle var.*)
Idaho Fescue *Festuca idahoensis*
Buffalo Grass *Bouteloua dactyloides* 'U.C. Verde'
Thin Grass *Agrostis pallens*

Bunching Grasses

Foothill Sedge *Carex tumulicola*
California Fescue *Festuca californica*
Leafy Reed Grass *Calamagrostis foliosa*
June Grass *Koeleria macrantha*
Purple Needle Grass *Nasella pulchra*
Blue Grama Grass *Bouteloua gracilis*

ESTABLISHING A MEADOW

- Relaxed attitude around perfection/change
- Decide on type of grass
- Mixed with flowers?
- Transplants or seed?
- Pre-germination of existing weed seeds
- Weeding important until established

ECO-LAWN: Mixture of clover, yarrow & dwarf fescues, use seed
NATIVE MEADOW GRASS NOW AVAILABLE IN SOD (+/- \$1.90/sft)
Capitol Wholesale Nursery www.capitolwholesalenursery.com
Native Revival Nursery www.nativerivival.com

ARTIFICIAL LAWN: never needs mowing or watering – but can't recycle it and is hot (and doesn't improve the environment like plants do). See http://www.valleywater.org/uploadedFiles/Programs/WaterConservation/Landscaping/01_Artificial%20Turf%20Fact%20Sheet_030614%20BA.pdf?n=1336 for more information on Artificial Turf

DROUGHT TOLERANT GROUND COVERS

Manzanita, Rosemary, Dwarf Coyote Bush, Dwarf Ceanothus, Dymondia, Beach Strawberry, Lowfast Cotoneaster

SANTA MONICA DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

- 1/4 of the maintenance labor
- 3/5 of the green waste
- 1/10 of the water

To view online: www.santa-monica.org/epd/news/gardengarden.htm
(or just google: garden/garden santa monica)