



**FOLSOM**  
**WATER CONSERVATION**



CITY OF  
**FOLSOM**  
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

# MANAGEABLE MAINTENANCE

Resources and Additional Information

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*Water Conservation*  
[waterconservation@folsom.ca.us](mailto:waterconservation@folsom.ca.us)  
*(916) 461-6177*

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# How to Hire a Tree Expert

## What Tree Experts Do

Tree experts, known as Arborists, provide a variety of services to help you care for the valuable investment you have made in your trees. An arborist can determine what type of pruning is necessary to maintain or improve the health, appearance, and safety of your trees. These techniques include:

- Identifying and removing diseased, insect-infested, damaged, and dead limbs.
- Eliminating branches that rub each other.
- Removing limbs that interfere with wires, buildings, sidewalks, streets or obstruct views.
- Selectively removing branches to create better tree structure.

Although removal is a last resort, it is recommended when the tree is:

- dead or dying
- considered irreparably hazardous
- causing an obstruction that is impossible to correct through pruning
- to be replaced by a more suitable tree

## Selecting an Arborists

Look for a combination of education, experience, certifications, licenses, and references. Reputable Firm - Beware of people soliciting work door to door without identification on their vehicle, uniform or I.D. card. Get a written estimate and always confirm insurance and references.

## Insurance

Request to have a certificate of insurance (including proof of liability for personal and property damage) sent to you directly from the insurance agent. This does not cost either party any money. Be sure to call the insurance company to verify that the policy is current, even if the certificate has not expired. Under some circumstances you can be held financially responsible if an uninsured worker is hurt on your property, or damage is done to a neighbor's property.

**References** Ask for and verify local references. Visit and inspect some of their work. Talk to previous clients. Experience, education and a good reputation are signs of a good arborist.

**Certifications** Ask for proof of membership in professional organizations and professional certifications. Certification does not guarantee high quality work, but it does demonstrate a basic level of professional capability and commitment to the field.

**Permit** Some Cities, such as the City of Sacramento, can require a permit, based on the tree species and size. Please check your City and County ordinances for requirements.

## Resources

### **International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) *Treesaregood.org***

Certification requires a broad basic knowledge of tree biology, species identification and selection, soils and tree nutrition, planting, pruning, problem diagnosis and management. It also requires 18 months of experience in Arboriculture and 30 hours of continuing education every three years. From the ISA web site you may enter your zip code or city and obtain a list of certified arborists in your area.

### **The American Society of Consulting Arborists *asca-consultants.org***

Membership is for practicing arborists who specialize in advising, diagnosing, recommending treatments, making appraisals and offering legal testimony in court. Signifies a high degree of

professionalism in arboriculture. Requires academic foundation, extensive work experience, professional affiliations, and references.

**Estimates** Have more than one arborist give you an estimate. You may be required to pay for the estimate but two or more opinions are worth your extra effort. Remember that pruning is an art. The arborist's skill and professionalism may be more important than low bid.

**Responsible Practices** While some arborists are not equipped to service every aspect of every job, a good arborist can advise and direct in all areas of tree care (pruning, fertilizing, cabling/bracing, lightning protection, pest control, etc.) If reducing the height of the tree is a goal, a good arborist will use ISA recommended techniques. They will not simply chop off the top of the tree at the desired height. Beware of an arborist who is eager to remove a living tree. Removal should be a last resort.

**Contract** A contract is the key to preventing misunderstandings and assuring the work is performed to the standards you expect. Most companies have their own forms, and conditions vary widely. Read the document carefully and check with your attorney if you have questions. There are several key items that a contract should include:

- 1) The date that work is to begin and end.
- 2) Exactly what work will be done. For example, "Prune all dead, dying, diseased and weak branches 1.5 inches or greater in diameter."
- 3) Specify that the work will be done according to the International Society of Arboriculture, Pruning Standards and the ANSI Z133.1, 1988 Safety Standards.
- 4) If your tree is to be sprayed, get a written statement detailing the specific insect or disease to be treated, the chemical to be used and how much, and what you need to do (cover lawn furniture, keep pets inside, etc.).
- 5) If fertilizing is to be done, specify type, amount and method of application. A rough map of the property identifying trees to be serviced, or a clearly written description of location.
- 6) Specify what clean-up work will be done and when.
- 7) Clarify who will get any firewood, and if it is for you, will it be cut into 16 inch lengths and stacked.
- 8) Clarify if removal of tree includes grinding out the stump and surface roots to one foot below grade + filling with topsoil.
- 9) What is the absolute total dollar amount you will be charged? Leave no room for confusion over whether the price is per tree or for the whole job. Work is usually priced as a single fee for the whole job or on an hourly basis plus materials. When using the latter, be sure to include the wording, "but not to exceed..."

Anne Fenkner  
ISA Certified Arborist  
Municipal Specialist #WE-9417AM  
Tree Risk Assessment Qualified  
Davey Resource Group

Master Gardener, UC Cooperative Extension, University of California



# **Maintenance of Native Plants**

## **Alison Shilling**

**A presentation at Bringing Nature Home, Transitioning to a Beautiful, Water-Wise, Native Garden**

**Native Gardening Workshop Presented by the Sacramento Valley Chapter of California Native Plant Society, September 8, 2012**

# Overview

- Planting – new plants, transplanting
- Pruning – for health and beauty
- Habitat
- Environmental disorders
- Pests
- Diseases
- Gardening for fire

# Planting for Success

- Plant about same size as pot
  - no moss, root crown not covered
- Trees/shrubs, younger is better
- Shade young plants
- Transplant in cool season
  - the younger the better
- Beware root-bound plant

# Pot-bound Achillea





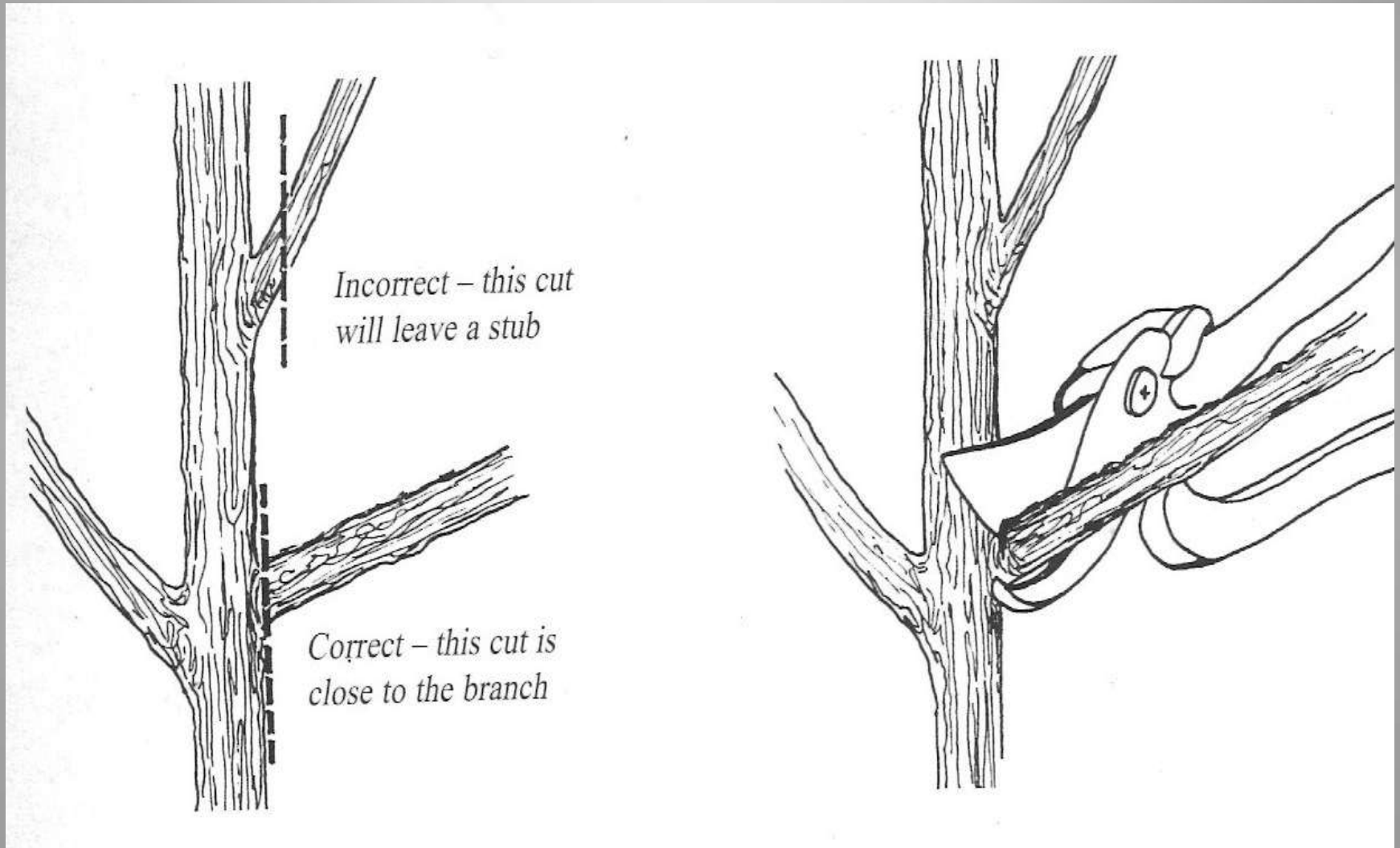
# Roots unraveled



# Pruning for Health and Beauty

- Use the right tool
  - sharpened, sterilized, oiled
- Shaping, the younger the better
  - as tree or shrub
  - to get balance
  - to keep low or make denser
  - to open, to show form

# Correct Pruning Cut



# Young Ceanothus



# Artemisia before pruning



# Artemisia



*Arctostaphylos 'Sentinel' = Manzanita*



# Salvia 'Ground Cover'





# Timing

- Deciduous
  - usually dormant, can tolerate in summer
- Evergreen
  - little & often
  - conifers not into old wood
  - oaks in summer
  - manzanitas in spring
- If in doubt, after bloom or when producing new growth

# Salvia half-pruned



# Radical Pruning

- After blooming
  - Epilobium
  - Salvia leucophylla
  - some grasses
  - some annuals & perennials may rebloom
- To reinvigorate or change shape
  - trees/shrubs: redwood, willows
- Grape

# Grape on Grapefruit Tree



# Poppies in May



# Poppies in July



# *Maintenance for Habitat*

- Birds need
  - cover for nests: dense trees & shrubs
  - nest material: fluff, twigs
  - seeds [do not deadhead] & berries
  - insects in spring for their young
- Bees need
  - bare ground for nests: leave patches without mulch
  - pollen & nectar
- Care with pesticides

# Finches on Sunflower





# Environmental Disorders

- Sun exposure
  - leaf sunburn & bark sunscald
- Water Management
  - later deeply to supplement in winter
  - beware too much water
- Mulches
  - organic ones can help soil balance
- Mineral imbalances
  - can have too much nitrogen
  - selenium in Davis

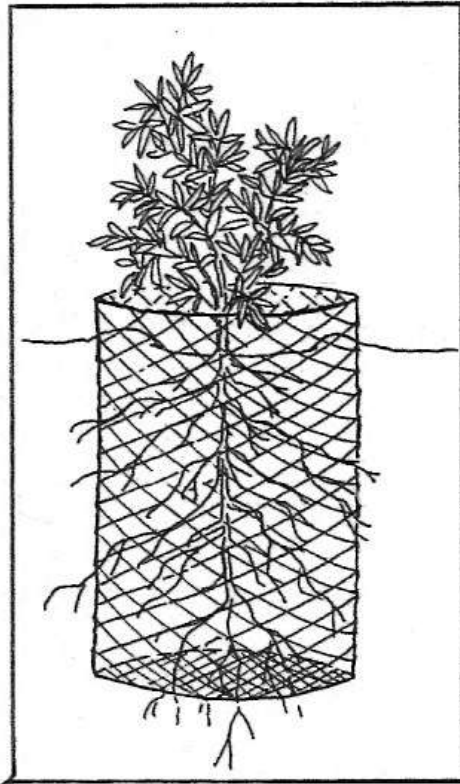
# Calycanthus occidentalis – Spicebush



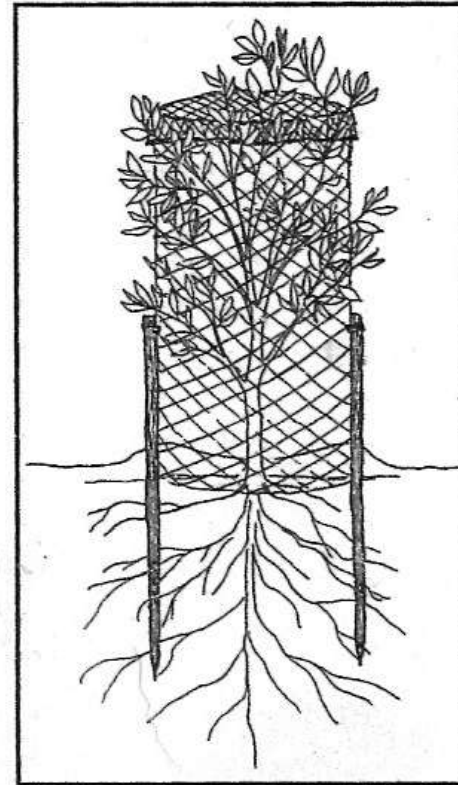
# Pests

- IPM principles: [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)
- Monitor, tolerate a little damage
- Use barriers, beneficial insects
- Damage versus habitat
- Aphids
  - control ants that ‘farm’ aphids
- Slugs & snails
  - trap in wet newspaper or bait with beer

# Mechanical Barriers



*Below ground cage  
for gophers*



*Above ground cage  
for deer, rodents  
and birds*

# Caterpillar on Pipevine



# Caterpillar with Aphids



# Diseases

Molds, rots, mildews, fungi

Healthy Natives are quite resistant

Prune infected twigs to good wood

Rake & destroy infected leaves

If in doubt, avoid overhead irrigation

# Weeds

- Physical control best
  - pull when young, especially before seeding
- Mow rather than till
  - no soil disturbance to expose weed seeds
- Mulch about 4” thick
  - BUT organic mulches decompose & can enrich soil too much



# *Fire Safety near House*

- Zone nearest house [30']
  - low plants, well-irrigated: ground cover, succulents
- ‘Fuel modification’ zone [30’ – 100’]
  - make ‘islands’ of vegetation + bare ground
  - ‘open’ trees, prune branches off ground
- Beware combustibles
  - conifers, brooms
  - oily leaves [e.g. Eucalyptus]

# *Some Low-Fuel Plants*

- Manzanita – low
- Ceanothus – low
- Penstemon
- Monkey–flower
- Coral Bells
- Iris
- Columbine
- Succulents
- California Fuchsia
- Fuchsia–fld Currant
- Milkweed
- Sugarbush
- Desert Willow
- Western Redbud
- Toyon
- Holly–leaf cherry



## Reference

O'Brien, Bart, Betsy Landis & Ellen Mackey, 2006. *Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens*. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California L.A. Ca.

## **City of Folsom Manageable Maintenance RESOURCES**

These Resources are intended to be a tool to assist in the efficient use, management, and protection of our environment and natural resources, especially water. Information is provided as a public service and is not to be considered an endorsement or all-inclusive relative to plant material, products, companies, organizations, or services, nor is the information a substitute for the exercise of sound judgment and individual site conditions.

### **CITY OF FOLSOM WATER CONSERVATION**

Rebates, workshops and webinars, and more!

<https://www.folsom.ca.us/government/environmental-water-resources/water/water-conservation>

Water Wise House Calls

<https://www.folsom.ca.us/government/environmental-water-resources/water-conservation/water-management-services-and-programs>

### **CITY OF ROSEVILLE**

Gardening and Irrigation ~ How to Have A Water-Wise Garden

Resources include Successful gardening starts here, Create a landscape plan for your needs, Water and your garden, and Maintain a healthy and beautiful garden,

<https://www.roseville.ca.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=7964922&pageId=18087537>

Inspiration Garden

Located in Mahaney Park at the Roseville Utility Exploration Center Courtyard,

<https://www.roseville.ca.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=7964922&pageId=17469821>

Inspiration Garden Plants Broken Down by Section (Theme)

Themes include: Focal Garden, Pollinator Garden, Sun Garden, and Shade Garden

Installation of a Rain Garden is coming soon!

<https://plantmaster.com/presents/plants.php?id=646d0c35646e5>

WaterSmart Plant List for the Sacramento Region

A curated list of California native and non-native plants appropriate for the Sacramento region. You'll find lists according to plant type, e.g., Trees-Evergreen, Trees-Deciduous, Shrubs-Large, Shrubs-Medium, Perennials, etc. There is also a list devoted solely to California native plants.

Lists include mature size in square feet, which is helpful if participating in lawn replacement incentive programs. Provided by the City of Roseville,

<https://www.roseville.ca.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=7964922&pageId=12410102>

Chino Basin, Water Conservation District, Waterwise Community Center, <https://cbwcd.org>

## **LANDSCAPE DESIGNS BASED ON THE WATERSHED APPROACH**

California Watershed Approach to Landscape Design

Seven sections guide you through creating, installing, and maintaining your watershed-wise landscape, <https://apldca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/G3-APLD-CA-Watershed-Approach.pdf>

Eco-Friendly Landscape Design Plans for The New California Landscape

Four free to use/download landscape design and irrigation plans, including 75 plant profiles, tutorials, photos of materials used in the plans, and more! <https://puddle-stompers.com/waterwonk/new-ca/>

35th Avenue Demonstration Garden

City of Sacramento Department of Utilities,

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/08dfc4ca4aa641189bdcc970cb1a6cae>

## **IRRIGATION SYSTEM SCHEDULING, SOIL TYPE JAR TEST, & MORE**

BeWaterSmart.info Find your water provider and resources,

<https://bewatersmart.info/residential-resources/>

Beyond The Drought

Smart Irrigation Scheduler for the Sacramento region and how-to videos,

<https://beyondthedrought.com/>

City of Folsom Water Wise House Call

<https://www.folsom.ca.us/government/environmental-water-resources/water-conservation/water-management-services-and-programs>

How Much Water? (Puddle-Stompers)

A fun app to determine how much water a plant needs based on four simple selections.

<https://waterwonk.us/how-much/>

How to Determine Soil Type Using Jar Test Method, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-QWHLt9qJ0>

Identifying & Removing Lawn Types (Video)

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC),

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X0wAiOXAso>

Manufacturers Resources for Homeowners:

Hunter, <https://www.hunterindustries.com/homeowners>

Netafim USA, <https://www.netafimusa.com/landscape/drip-solutions/>

Rainbird, <https://www.rainbird.com/homeowners>

Sprinkler Warehouse, <https://www.sprinklerwarehouse.com>

Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (WUCOLS)

Use to determine whether a plant is a very low, low, moderate, or high water-use plant,  
<https://ccuh.ucdavis.edu/wucols-db>

When to Water

Landscape Irrigation Scheduler, <http://whentowater.loripalmquist.com>

## **TREES & PLANTS – California Native Plant Society (CNPS)**

Bloom! California, <https://bloomcalifornia.org/>

CalScape Native Plant Database, [Calscape - Restore Nature One Garden at a Time](https://www.calscape.org/restore-nature-one-garden-at-a-time/)

Homegrown Habitat, <https://www.sacvalleycnps.org/homegrown-habitat/>

Plants for Parkways

Benefits of Native Plants, Designs, Site Preparation & Turf Removal Methods, Watering, Installing, & Long-term Care of Native Plant Parkways,  
<https://www.cnps.org/gardening/parkways>

SacValley CNPS Nursery & Gardens, <https://www.sacvalleycnps.org/nursery/>

## **TREES & PLANTS - Additional Resources**

Annie's Annuals (Annuals & Perennials, <https://www.anniesannuals.com/>)

California Invasive Plant Council, <https://www.cal-ipc.org>

Cal Poly Selectree, <https://selectree.calpoly.edu>

High Country Gardens (Mail Order),

[https://www.highcountrygardens.com/?gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw3NyxBhBmEiwAyofDYWHBHmNMDXtcwnHqAia\\_XJGBttUH7gVlrKWidRiDGY5QBqLOOeQoxoCpQ4QAvD\\_BwE](https://www.highcountrygardens.com/?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw3NyxBhBmEiwAyofDYWHBHmNMDXtcwnHqAia_XJGBttUH7gVlrKWidRiDGY5QBqLOOeQoxoCpQ4QAvD_BwE)

Miridae Mobile Nursery - A customized box truck that transforms into a curbside native plant shop, <https://www.miridae.com/mobilenursery>

Nursery at Camp Pollock, Sacramento Valley Conservancy

The Lower American River Native Plant Nursery at Camp Pollock - Sacramento Valley Conservancy, <https://sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/nursery-at-camp-pollock-open/>

Peaceful Valley Farm Supply – Fruit trees, seeds, equipment, education,  
<https://www.groworganic.com/>

PlantRight, Alternatives to use instead of invasive plants, <https://plantright.org>

Sacramento Tree Foundation, planting, watering, pruning and more, <https://sactree.org/tree-care-tips/how-to-prune-young-trees/>

SacTree Shady 80, [SacTree.com/shady80](http://SacTree.com/shady80)

Soil Born Farms

Urban agriculture and education. Online marketplace, workshops, and more!  
<https://soilborn.org>

Trees are Good, International Society of Arboriculture, <https://www.treesaregood.org/>

UC Davis Arboretum & Public Garden

Plant Sales, [UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden - Plant Sales](#)

UC IPM (Integrated Pest Management)

Home, Garden, Turf, & Landscape Pests, <https://ipm.ucanr.edu>

## **POLLINATORS & OTHER GARDEN LIFE**

Native Keystone Plants for Wildlife by Doug Tallamy,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5cXccWx030>

National Audubon Society, <https://www.audubon.org/>

Pollinator Partnership, [Homepage | Pollinator.org](#)

Protecting Pollinators

You need them and they need you (SMUD), [0532-21\\_PollinatorWeek\\_FactSheet.ai \(smud.org\)](#)

UC Davis Bee Haven, <https://beegarden.ucdavis.edu/BeeGardeningResources>

Xerces Society, [The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#)

## **RAIN GARDENS**

Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington

Department of Ecology State of Washington, Washington State University Extension,  
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1310027.pdf>

UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Plant Suggestions for Your Rain Garden,  
<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=28777>

UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County, Garden Sense,  
[https://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/Garden\\_Sense\\_Master/Garden\\_Sense/](https://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/Garden_Sense_Master/Garden_Sense/)

## **FIRE-WISE LANDSCAPING**

CAL FIRE Defensible Space, <https://www.fire.ca.gov/dspace>

UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County  
Zone Zero (Video 8 minutes in length)

Learn the basics for creating the first defensible space zone immediately around your home perimeter from 0 – 5', the ember-resistant zone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMaK3GHv8nw>

## **WHERE TO FIND HELP**

Association of Professional Landscape Designers, <https://apldca.org>

California Landscape Contractors Association, <https://clca.org/consumer-resources/>

Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper, <https://www.qwel.net/>

ReScape, <https://www.rescapeca.org/>

UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners:

Sacramento County, <https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/>

Placer County: <https://pcmg.ucanr.edu/index.cfm>

El Dorado County: <https://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/>

Cheryl Buckwalter, Landscape Liaisons, [landscapeliaisons@gmail.com](mailto:landscapeliaisons@gmail.com)



# Seasonal Garden Care (Basic Tasks)

Say good-bye to Daily &  
Weekly Garden Care

Spring

Manageable Maintenance Handout



Summer



Fall



Winter



# Caring for Your Garden Spring

- Call for a Waterwise House Call
- Test, repair irrigation system
- Identify & remove weeds
- Apply worm castings or compost (one time per year, see fall notes)
- Add mulch to maintain 3-4" layer, NOT in contact with the bases of plants & trees
- Monitor & manage pests & diseases, refer to UC IPM, <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/>





# Caring for Your Garden Summer

- Turn on irrigation system weekly
- Look & listen for leaks
- Make repairs ASAP
- Adjust misdirected sprinklers
- Adjust emitter placement, if needed
- Adjust irrigation schedule unless controller is weather based



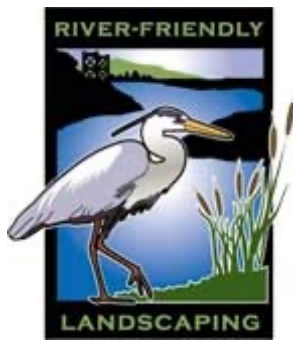
Check soil moisture  
before watering



# Caring for Your Garden Summer

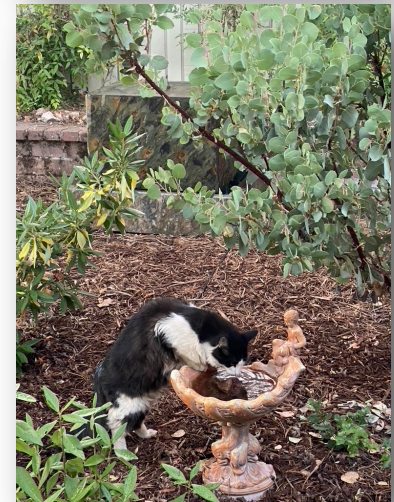
- Monitor & manage pests & diseases
  - [UC Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\)](#)
  - Eye loupe for a close look at insects
- Look for signs of plant stress
- Investigate - What's the cause
- Hand pull weeds
- Replenish mulch, maintain 3 to 4-inch layer
  - NOT in contact with bases of plants & trees
- Lawns - Use mulching mower
- Let grass grow taller - Moderates soil temperature

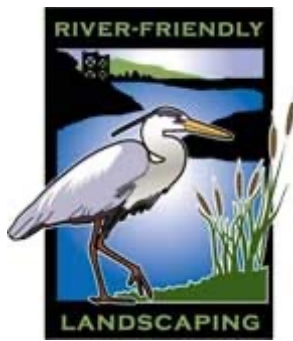




# Caring for Your Garden Summer

- **NOT** the time to plant ornamentals
- **NOT** time to prune, unless
  - Dead, damaged, diseased, crossing branches
  - Removing spent blooms to encourage repeat bloom
  - Some exceptions with natives
- **ALWAYS** clean pruning tools
- **Slowly & deeply** water trees
  - [Sacramento Tree Foundation](#)
  - Trees Are Good by [ISA](#)
- Provide water for pollinators & other garden life





# Caring for Your Garden Fall

- Fall - Best time to plant!
- Remove dead, broken, or crossed branches
  - When in doubt, do not cut
  - Hire a certified Arborist
- Pinch perennials to increase fullness, deadhead spent flowers
- Care for plants per specific needs of species
- Adjust irrigation schedule unless controller is weather based





# Caring for Your Garden Fall

- Apply thin layer of worm castings or compost under mulch, around plants
- Once rains begin, monitor weather & need to irrigate
- Pull weeds
- Leave leaves or compost healthy ones, discard diseased
- Remove debris from dry river beds, & rain garden inflow & overflow, redistribute mulch if needed





# Caring for Your Garden Winter

- Identify & remove weeds
- Irrigation OFF, hand water if needed
- Prune winter-deciduous perennials, shrubs, small trees only to enhance form & structure
- Prune warm-season grasses late winter/early spring
- Remove dead parts of perennials
- Continue leaf management
- Protect frost-sensitive plants from damage
- Relax and enjoy the holidays



Refer to this document for more detail:  
SEASONAL (INCLUDES MONTHLY TASKS)  
IRRIGATION & PLANT CARE NOTES



## **SEASONAL IRRIGATION & PLANT CARE (INCLUDES MONTHLY TASKS)**

### **Irrigation Maintenance Schedule**

- During first six weeks after installation
  - Check controller and landscape every two weeks to ensure the automatic program is functioning well, and the plants are thriving; during summer months, more frequent checks may be necessary.
  - Check watering history on controller.
  - Check that all data in controller are current and correct.
  - Turn on all zones and walk throughout all planted areas to ensure proper function of all components.
- Refer to monthly irrigation tasks within each section below.
- Annual Check-up
  - Perform an annual full-system irrigation check.
  - Promptly make any needed repairs or adjustments.

### **1. Fall (September, October, November)**

- Monthly - Turn on each zone, and conduct a walk-through to ensure that all equipment is properly functioning. Promptly make any needed repairs and adjustments. Check/adjust irrigation schedule.
- September – Inspect/clean filters at the valves.
- November – Shut down irrigation controller; shut off isolation valves at valve manifold.
- December – Winterize irrigation system.
- Trees - Remove any dead, broken, or crossed limbs. Refer to the International Society of Arboriculture at [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org) for information about proper pruning. DO NOT top trees.
- Rejuvenate and/or increase fullness of perennials by pinching. (Pinching is the use of fingernails or clean, sharp pruning shears to remove new growth at the end of the stem and as close to and just above the leaf nodes as possible.) Also, deadhead to remove spent flowers.
- Redistribute, add, or remove mulch as needed to maintain a 4” layer.
- Pull back mulch from around plants to apply a thin (1/2”) layer of well-processed compost or a hand full of worm castings around root zone of plants, hand water compost or worm castings, and replace the mulch. (This can be done in the early spring if preferred.)
- Mulch and leaf litter should not be in contact with stems/branches and tree trunks; remove leaves that may have collected within the canopy of the plant. Leave organic material (e.g., leaf litter) on site to naturally decompose or compost.
- Monitor weather; if unseasonably dry, supplemental irrigation may be needed. Probe down into the soil to check how wet or dry the soil is before irrigating.

### **2. Winter (December, January, February)**

- Irrigation controller off with rain sensor active. Periodically check soil moisture; during unseasonable dry winter months, supplemental irrigation may be needed.
- Prune winter-deciduous perennials, shrubs, and small trees, only to enhance form and structure; remove dead, broken, and crossing branches; refer to Pruning Young Trees at [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org) Do not top trees.
- Cut back dead portions of perennials that have become gangly; avoid pruning plants that have already set buds.

- Identify weeds and remove; monitor and manage pests; refer to <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu>.
- Clean up fallen branches and stems after storms.
- Check depth of mulch and “top off”, if necessary, to maintain a 4” layer.
- Monitor weather; if unseasonably dry, supplemental irrigation may be needed.

### **3. Spring (March, April, May)**

- Monthly - Turn on each zone, and conduct a walk-through to ensure that all equipment is properly functioning. Promptly make any needed repairs and adjustments.
- March - Irrigation controller off with rain sensor active. Periodically check soil moisture to determine if supplemental irrigation is needed. Inspect and clean irrigation filters. Flush all drip zones to remove any debris from the system.
- April – Activate controller and set to April schedule/water budget.
- May – Irrigation controller is on; check/adjust irrigation schedule. Conduct a walk-through to ensure that all equipment is properly functioning. Promptly make any needed repairs and adjustments.
- Remove weeds while young, easy to pull, and have not set seed.
- Apply mulch to maintain a depth of 4”; mulch should not be in contact with stems/branches and tree trunks.
- Monitor and manage pests, especially on new growth and undersides of leaves; refer to University of California Integrated Pest Management (IPM) at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu>.
- Remove any dead wood in trees, shrubs, perennials.
- If pruning of a ground cover is necessary, never remove more than one-fourth of the plant’s width or spread in a single pruning session, and prune each stem back into and within the canopy of the plant to avoid unsightly shapes and edges.

### **4. Summer (June, July, August)**

- Monthly (or more frequently), turn on each zone, and conduct a walk-through to ensure that all equipment is properly functioning. Promptly make any needed repairs and adjustments. Check/adjust irrigation schedule.
- June – Flush all drip zones to remove any debris from the system. Inspect and clean all drip filters at the valves.
- Selectively deadhead perennials; remove dead and broken branches.
- Apply mulch to maintain depth of 4”; mulch should not be in contact with stems/branches and tree trunks.
- Monitor soil moisture and plant condition especially during unseasonable dry fall and winter seasons, and during summer months when temperatures can be high for extended periods of time. Probe into soil to determine how wet or dry the soil is before applying additional water.

NOTE: The above care and maintenance notes are provided to assist in the conscientious management of this water-efficient landscape. These notes are not intended to be or interpreted as construction specifications, nor are they to replace the use of sound judgment, site-specific considerations, Best Management Practices, and/or compliance with any state, county, city, and local laws, ordinances, regulations, and water provider.



## Spring Pruning in the California Native Garden

**Author: Nadia Zane**

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Like most ornamentals grown in the garden, California native plants look better with a late winter or early spring clean-up.

New growth is likely to be emerging soon with our unseasonably warm weather, so now is a good time to get out in the garden and perform some basic clean-up.

Before chopping away, the first thing you should do is ask, "why am I pruning?" Native plants are tough in some ways, but most cannot tolerate the same constant shearing or abusive amputations accepted by exotics such as Indian hawthorn or Viburnum. Pruning with purpose goes a long way toward the health of your natives.

Good reasons to prune include:

1. To remove dead or diseased growth
2. To remove crossing limbs
3. To improve air circulation and/or light penetration
4. Establish good branching structure, especially on young plants (1-3 years old)

Not-so-good reasons to prune:

1. Size control due to inappropriately placed plants (Choose the [right plant for the right place](#) whenever possible)
2. Topiary is resented by most natives. Leave this to boxwood and Dr. Seuss books.

For **winter deciduous plants**, dormancy provides an easy view of the branching structure so you can visualize what shape you want the plant to take and any dead branches to be removed. Avoid pruning during rainy periods to reduce infection. Native plants for dormant pruning include:

California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*)  
Currant (*Ribes* spp)  
Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp)  
Mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*)  
Pipestem clematis (*Clematis lasiantha*)  
Spice bush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*)  
Wild grape (*Vitis californica*)

**Evergreen trees and shrubs** generally like to be pruned soon after they have finished flowering. However, if you want the valuable seeds and berries your native garden produces, then do not prune every year, or prune lightly to retain wildlife value. Evergreens to prune in spring (after flowering) include:

California lilac (*Ceanothus* spp)  
Coffeeberry (*Frangula* spp)  
Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp)  
Mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus* spp)

**Perennials** such as California fuchsia, Matilija poppy, and Lilac verbena can be coppiced to the ground now if you didn't get to it in fall. Any leftover flower stalks on Penstemon, Red-flowering buckwheat, or Sulfur buckwheat should be deadheaded.

**Rejuvenation of large shrubs** that have become scraggly or sparse can be done now. Rejuvenation, which involves coppicing a plant down to the ground, should only be done every 10-20 years; it mimics the loss of above-ground growth due to wildfire or other natural disasters. Plants to rejuvenate in spring include:

Blue elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea*)  
Bush anemone (*Carpenteria californica*)  
Coffeeberry (*Frangula* spp)  
Coyote brush (*Baccharis* spp)  
Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp)  
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos* spp)



Manzanita pruned to reveal the beautiful bark and branching structure

For more details on when and how to prune California natives plants, check out the resources below:

Basics of pruning natives:

<[www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/tips/pruning01.php](http://www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/tips/pruning01.php)>

Pruning calendar and techniques:

<[www.yerbabuenanursery.com/Pruning\\_Calendar.php](http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com/Pruning_Calendar.php)>

Care and Maintenance of Southern California Gardens (book)

By Bart O'Brien, Betsey Landis, and Ellen Mackey

If you have a gardening related question you can contact the UC Master Gardeners at [209-953-6112](tel:209-953-6112). More information can be found on our [website](#).

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