



Office of Sustainability and the Environment

Watershed Management Section

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Guidelines for Sustainable Edible Landscaping

- Minimize water use by building up organic matter in the soil, applying 2 to 3 inches of organic mulch around plants, and reducing the amount of time you hand water. Also, do not plant high water using crops like bananas, kiwis, and ginger.
- All hoses should have an automated shut off nozzle and a hose bibb vacuum breaker.
- Drip irrigation tubing emitters must not exceed 2 gallons per hour. Do not install multi-outlet drip emitters.
- Make your own soil by building a compost bin or a worm bin. Make sure bins are rodent proof. Never compost meat or dairy products. Adding mycorrhizal inoculants, or beneficial soil fungi, to your soil can help make plants more drought tolerant and disease resistant.
- Minimize chemical use by detecting plant disease and pest infestations early. Also choose disease resistant hybrids. Remove dead or diseased plant material. A blast of water may be sufficient to remove some pests. Identify and eliminate plants that are host to destructive insects, such as hibiscus. Create beneficial insect habitat with plants that have a lot of nectar or pollen, such as yarrow, lavender, sage or cosmos. Generally plants that get infested are stressed from environmental conditions, such as too much shade or a nutrient deficiency, so address these issues first.
- Minimize weeding by mulching, or planting living groundcovers. Weed by hand or with a weeding tool.
- Do not plant CAL-IPC listed invasive plants like castor beans, edible figs, fennel, fruiting olives, mullein, pennyroyal, plantain, morning glory, calla lily. Immediately remove invasive plants from the garden.

Edible Landscaping Resources

Determining Soil Texture by Feel & Soil Moisture by Feel

- http://www.ndhealth.gov/wq/sw/z1_nps/pdf_files/soil_texture_feel_test.pdf
- www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/agronomy/soilmoisture
Type the key words “soil moisture” under search.

How to Use a Soil Probe

- **Oakfield Apparatus** – to order a soil probe, visit www.soilsamplers.com/
- www.ci.greeley.co.us/cog/PageHome.asp?fkorgid=41
On the left side of the page under “SERVICES” click on “Water Restrictions”. Then, look for “ARCHIVED NEWS”, and click on “What is a soil probe?”.
- www.extension.usu.edu/files/gardpubs/hg520.pdf
Water-wise landscaping: “Monitoring irrigation with probes”

Soil Testing

- **Wallace Laboratories**
365 Coral Circle
El Segundo, CA 90245
phone: 310-615-0116 fax: 310-640-6863 info@wlabs.com
- **Tri-C Enterprises, LLC**
P.O. Box 1367
Chino, Ca 91708-1367
1-800-927-3311 info@tri-corganics.com

Soil Food Web Info and Testing

- www.soilfoodweb.com

Compost & Worm Bins

- Solid Waste Management Division
Phone: (310) 458-2223 Email: solid.waste@smgov.net

Soils and Mulch

- **Whittier Fertilizer Co.** 9441 Cruz Rd Pico Rivera (562) 804-8739
Cedar mulch
- **Armstrong Nursery**, Santa Monica, CA, www.armstronggarden.com;
(310) 829-6766.
E.B.Stone compost
- **Merrihew's Sunset Gardens** 1526 Ocean Park Blvd Santa Monica,
CA 90405 (310) 452-1051
Cedar Mulch
- **Marina Del Rey Garden Center** 13198 Mindanao Way, Marina del
Rey, CA 90292 | Tel: (310) 823-5956

Tips for preferred irrigation design including drip irrigation

- www.sustainablem.org/landscape

Irrigation Supply Stores

- **Aqua-Flo** – (310) 915- 5208
- **Ewing** – (310) 479-9533
- **Smith Pipe & Supply** (Santa Monica) – (310) 393-0143

Drip Irrigation Manufacturer Info.

- **Agrifim** - www.ndspro.com
- **Rain Bird** - www.rainbird.com (800) 724-6247
- **Toro** - www.toro.com (800) 348-2424
- **Hunter** – www.hunterindustries.com
- **Netafim** – www.netafim.com

Rain Harvesting

- **American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association**
www.arcsa.org

Mycorrhizal Products Info.

- Plant Revolution - www.plantrevolution.com (714) 545-5335
- Mycorrhizal Applications - www.mycorrhizae.com (541) 476-3985
- Tri C Enterprises, LLC – www.naturalSOILutions.com (909) 590-1790
- Bio-Organics - www.bio-organics.com (888)-332-7676

Seeds

- Bountiful Gardens - www.bountifulgardens.org (707) 459-6410
- Harmony Farm Supply - www.harmonyfarm.com (707) 823-9125
- Ornamental Edibles – www.ornamentaledibles.com (408) 946-7333
- Peaceful Valley Farm Supply- www.groworganic.com (530) 272-4769
- Seeds of Change – <http://store.yahoo.com/seedsofchange/>

Recommended Reading

- **Teaming with Microbes, A Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web;** Jeff Lowenfels
- **Worms Eat My Garbage** by Mary Appelhof
- **Designing and Maintaining your Edible Landscape Naturally-** Robert Kourik
- **The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping** - Rosalind Creasy
- **Gaia's Garden** – Toby Hemenway
- **The Garden Primer** – Barbara Damrosch
- **Cornucopia II: A Source Book of Edible Plants** - Stephen Facciola
- **Breed Your Own Vegetable Varieties: The Gardener's & Farmer's Guide to Plant Breeding & Seed Saving** - Carol Deppe
- **Good Bugs for Your Garden;** Allison Mia Starcher
- **Chemical-Free Yard and Garden (Rodale's);** Anna Carr, Miranda Smith, Linda A. Gilkeson, Joseph Smillie, Bill Wolf