

## LANDSCAPE FOR YOUR LOCAL CLIMATE

### 1. Evaluate your micro-climate and sun exposure

- A. Do you have sunny, shady and part shady areas?



**Sun**-full sunlight all day long except for 1 hour or so of shade at the beginning or end of a summer day

**Partial shade**-shade for half the day or for at least 3 hours during the hottest part of the day

**Shade**-prefers little or no direct sunlight

- B. Do your neighbors trees shade or not shade your garden?
- C. What is the shape and size of the planting area?
- D. Do you have areas with difficult access such as slopes, poor drainage, or wind?
- E. Is there any view you would like to enhance or screen?
- F. How will you use your garden?
- a. Play space for kids
  - b. Entertaining
  - c. Play or sports
  - d. Vegetable gardening
  - e. Erosion or climate control
  - f. Wildlife habitat
- G. Use appropriate plants
- a. Select low-water plants, there are many beautiful water wise plants
  - b. Use California/Mediterranean natives that are appropriate for our area
  - c. Use climate appropriate plants, don't plant marigolds in the shade or pansies in the sun

- H. Consider planting Arboretum All-Stars. [www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu)
- a. The arboretum has 10 x 10 ft. plans using All-Stars.
- I. Check out the McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens at Turtle Bay in Redding.  
The entire garden is based on what will grow in the valley. [turtlebay.org](http://turtlebay.org)

### Benefits:

- Right plant, right place
- Saves time and money

## 2. Soil

### A. What does your soil feel like?

- a. Take a handful of moist soil, squeeze, with your thumb and first finger form a ribbon.
- i. If the ribbon is a couple of inches long then you have clay soil
  - ii. If the ribbon is only an inch then you have silty soil



- iii. If the soil crumbles and does not form a ribbon you have sandy soil

### B. How fast does the water percolate thru the soil?

- a. Take a coffee can remove the top and bottom, push the coffee can into the soil an inch or two. Fill the coffee can with water.
- i. If the water drains very slowly then you have clay soil or a soil that is very compacted.
  - ii. If the water drains moderately then you have a silty soil
  - iii. If the water drains quickly then you have a sandy soil

### C. Use a shovel or trowel to look at your soil

### 3. Wildlife

- A. California natives will attract wildlife to your garden
- B. What wildlife is already attracted to your garden?

#### Benefit:

- Native plants can be easier to maintain



### 4. Fire Safety

- A. Trees and shrubs should not reach your house. Branches make it easy for fire to jump to your house
- B. Decks can also be fire hazards. Construct the deck from fire resistant materials
- C. Avoid fine mulch next to your buildings. Use a course bark or rock. Rubber mulch is flammable and should not be used next to your home.
- D. Foothill communities need to have “defensible space” around their house.

