

WELCOME TO
La Plaza Garden

*A Water-Efficient
Demonstration
Garden in the
heart of Cotati,
featuring drought-
tolerant plants,
water harvesting
techniques, and
habitat for birds,
butterflies and
beneficial insects.*



WATER-EFFICIENT GARDENING

La Plaza Garden is a water-efficient demonstration garden that conserves valuable resources. In a time of drought and rising energy costs, re-thinking how we design our landscapes has never been more important.

Growing in this garden are examples of beautiful, drought-tolerant, primarily native landscaping that is long lasting, locally available, and easy to grow.

By using climate-appropriate plants, deep mulching, and porous pathways, we have created a “water harvesting” landscape or “living sponge” that allows water to infiltrate the soil throughout the garden, thus recharging the aquifer and giving plants a water resource during the dry summer months. In addition, as plant roots grow and soil life increases, the soil’s ability to infiltrate and hold water steadily improves.

Conservation techniques used in the garden:

- **Organic matter added to the soil** – holds moisture, adds fertility, stores nutrients, boosts soil life, fluffs soil
- **Deep mulching** – slows evaporation, cools soil, adds fertility, boosts soil life, smothers weeds
- **Dense plantings** – shade soil, smother weeds
- **Decomposed granite pathways** – allow water to penetrate through to the soil below
- **Soil contouring or earthworks** – catches water, directs water where needed, helps plants and soil life survive both wet and dry periods, builds humus, adds visual interest

Earthwork methods used in the garden:

- **Dry Creek Bed** – an attractive rock-lined V-ditch that moves surface run-off to a catch basin
- **Infiltration Basin** – rock-lined catch basin to catch excess surface water run-off and infiltrate into soil
- **Gravel-filled Trenches** – a means of infiltrating water more deeply into the garden beds, rather than allowing it to run off site into storm drains

It is important to:

- Slow water down to take velocity out of the flow, and to allow water to infiltrate into soil rather than run off site into storm drains.
- Size ditches and catch basin structures appropriately to handle rainwater volume.
- Use existing storm drains for back up flow in large water volume rain events.

Educational Resources

Drought Tolerant and Insectary Plants:

Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region

by The East Bay Municipal Water District, 2004

Sunset Western Garden Book

Sunset Publishing Corporation

The Melissa Garden, a Honeybee Sanctuary:

www.themelissagarden.com

California Native Plants:

California Native Plants for the Garden

by Carol Bornstein, David Fross and Bart O'Brien; Cachuma Press, 2005

California Native Plant Link Exchange:

www.cnplx.info

California Native Plant Society:

www.cnps.org

Larner Seeds:

www.larnerseeds.com

Las Pilitas / extensive native plant information:

www.laspilitas.com

Water Harvesting:

Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond, Volumes 1 and 2

by Brad Lancaster; Rainsource Press, 2008

Brad Lancaster's information-packed website:

www.harvestingrainwater.com

Compost and mulch:

Sonoma Compost:

www.sonomacompost.com

Bay Friendly Gardening:

www.stopwaste.org/home/index.asp?page=8

Permaculture:

Gaia's Garden, A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture

by Toby Hemenway; Chelsea Green Publishing, 2000

Food Not Lawns, How to Turn Your Yard Into a Garden and Your Neighborhood Into a Community

by Heather C. Flores; Chelsea Green Publishing, 2006

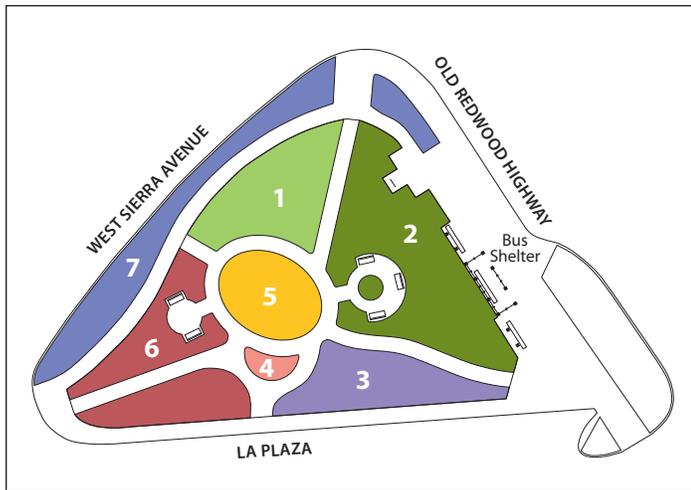
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center:

www.oaec.org

Regenerative Design Institute:

www.regenerativedesign.org

A TOUR OF THE GARDEN



1. Rain Garden with Dry Creekbed:

Plants that can tolerate drought as well as having their "feet wet."

- Achillea millefolium* 'Moonshine' (Yarrow)
- * *Andropogon scoparius* (Little Bluestem)
- Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' (Feather Reed Grass)
- * *Carex barbarae* (Santa Barbara Sedge)
- Eragrostis trichodes* (Sand Lovegrass)
- Erigeron karvinskianus* (Mexican Daisy)
- Festuca glauca* 'Elijah Blue' (Blue Fescue)
- Helianthemum* 'Cheviot' (Sunrose)
- Helianthemum* 'Henfield Brilliant' (Sunrose)
- Helianthemum nummularium* 'Double Apricot' (Sunrose)
- * *Iris douglasiana* (Douglas Iris)
- Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'Regal Mist' (Pink Muhly)
- Pennisetum orientale* (Fountain Grass)
- Phormium cookianum* 'Tricolor' (Mountain Flax)
- * *Salvia apiana* (California White Sage)
- Stachys byzantina* (Lambs Ears)

* = California native plants

2. Shade Garden:

Woodland understory plants that tolerate shade and need little moisture once established.

- Anemone japonica* (Japanese Anemone)
- * *Aquilegia* (Columbine)
- * *Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Northern Lights' (Hair Grass)
- Erigeron karvinskianus* (Mexican Daisy)
- Galium odoratum* (Sweet Woodruff)
- Gaultheria shallon* (Salal)
- * *Heuchera sanguinea* (Coral Bells)
- * *Iris douglasiana* (Douglas Iris)
- * *Mahonia aquifolium* 'Skylark' (Oregon Grape)
- Phormium cookianum* 'Tricolor' (Mountain Flax)
- * *Penstemon strictus* (Rocky Mountain Penstemon)
- * *Polystichum munitum* (Western Sword Fern)
- * *Ribes sanguineum* (Red Flowering Currant)
- * *Ribes viburnifolium* (Catalina Perfume)
- * *Salvia clevelandii* (Cleveland Sage)
- * *Salvia spathacea* (Hummingbird Sage)
- * *Satureja douglasii* (Yerba Buena)

3. Mediterranean Garden:

Soft colored plants in blues and greys with yellow accents. Hardy and drought tolerant plants with seasonal interest.

- Achillea millefolium* 'Moonshine' (Yarrow)
- Artemisia* 'Powis Castle' (Artemisia)
- Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' (Feather Reed Grass)
- * *Cercis occidentalis* (Western Redbud)
- Cistus ladanifer* (Crimson-spot Rockrose)
- Cistus salvifolius* (Sageleaf Rockrose)
- Festuca glauca* 'Elijah Blue' (Blue Fescue)
- Heliotrichon sempervirens* (Blue Oat Grass)
- Lavandula angustifolia* (English Lavender)
- Limonium californicum* (Western Marsh-Rosemary)
- Nassella tenuissima* (Mexican Feather Grass)
- Pennisetum orientale* (Fountain Grass)
- Perovskia atriplicifolia* (Russian Sage)
- * *Salvia clevelandii* (Cleveland Sage)

4. Mimosa Garden:

Simple planting that's easy to maintain and looks good all year.

- Albizia julibrissin* (Silk Tree, Mimosa)
- Lavandula angustifolia* (English Lavender)
- Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'Regal Mist' (Pink Muhly)

5. Native Garden:

California native plants that grow wild in Sonoma and Marin counties, surrounding the Chief Cotati statue and honoring the contribution that Native Americans made to the fertility of our landscapes through their stewardship of the land.

- * *Arctostaphylos densiflora* 'Howard McMinn' (Vine Hill Manzanita)
- * *Arctostaphylos 'Uva Ursi'* (Bearberry, Kinnikinnick)
- * *Ceanothus* 'Dark Star' or 'Julia Phelps' (Wild Lilac)
- * *Ceanothus griseus horizontalis* (Wild Lilac)
- * *Deschampsia cespitosa* (Hair Grass)
- * *Epilobium canum* (California Fuschia)
- * *Eriophyllum stachaedifolium* (Lizard Tail)
- * *Festuca californica* (California Fescue)
- * *Festuca idahoensis* (Idaho Fescue)
- * *Iris douglasiana* (Douglas Iris)
- * *Mimulus aurantiacus* (Sticky Monkey Flower)
- * *Muhlenbergia rigens* (Deer Grass)
- * *Quercus lobata* (Valley Oak)
- * *Ribes sanguineum* (Red Flowering Currant)
- * *Salvia sonomensis* (Sonoma Sage)
- * *Sidalcea malviflora* (Checkerbloom)

6. Oak Garden:

Habitat garden for birds and butterflies.

- Achillea millefolium* 'Moonshine' (Yarrow)
- * *Arctostaphylos densiflora* 'Howard McMinn' (Vine Hill Manzanita)
- Cistus salvifolius* (Sageleaf Rockrose)
- * *Epilobium canum* (California Fuschia)
- Erysimum* 'Bowles Mauve' (Wallflower)
- * *Festuca californica* (California Fescue)
- Helianthemum* 'Cheviot' (Sunrose)
- Helianthemum* 'Henfield Brilliant' (Sunrose)
- Helianthemum nummularium* 'Double Apricot' (Sunrose)
- * *Iris douglasiana* (Douglas Iris)
- Lavandula angustifolia* (English Lavender)
- Limonium californicum* (Western Marsh-Rosemary)
- * *Mimulus bifidus* (Azalea-flowered Monkeyflower)
- Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'Regal Mist' (Pink Muhly)
- Nepeta x faassenii* (Catmint)
- Pennisetum orientale* (Fountain Grass)
- Phormium cookianum* 'Tricolor' (Mountain Flax)
- * *Quercus lobata* (Valley Oak)
- Rosemarinus officinalis* 'Tuscan Blue' (Rosemary)
- Santolina chamaecyparissus* (Lavender Cotton)
- Santolina virens* (Santolina)

7. Border Garden:

Simple street planting with seasonal interest.

- * *Ceanothus griseus horizontalis* (Wild Lilac)
- * *Cercis occidentalis* (Western Redbud)
- * *Deschampsia cespitosa* (Hair Grass)
- Lavandula angustifolia* (English Lavender)
- Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'Regal Mist' (Pink Muhly)

For further information about the design and planting of this garden, and additional resources, please visit the City of Cotati website at:
<http://ci.cotati.ca.us/>

*Sonoma County plant sources
for your water-efficient garden*

For a more complete list, please visit <http://ci.cotati.ca.us/>

California Flora Nursery
2990 Somers Street, Fulton; 707-528-8813
www.calfloranursery.com

Cottage Gardens of Petaluma
3995 Emerald Drive, Petaluma; 707-778-8025
www.cottagegardensofpet.com

Dig Nursery
8567 Gravenstein Highway, Cotati; 707-795-7825

Emerisa Gardens
555 Irwin Lane, Santa Rosa; 707-525-9644
www.emerisagardens.com

Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse
7921 Redwood Drive, Cotati; 707-242-5000
www.lowes.com

Mariposa Nursery (open by appointment)
672 Piezzi Road, Santa Rosa; 707-546-4386

Mostly Natives Nursery
27235 Highway One, Tomales; 707-878-2009
www.mostlynatives.com

North Coast Native Nursery
2710 Chileno Valley Road, Petaluma; 707-769-1213
www.northcoastnativenursery.com

Urban Tree Farm Nursery
3010 Fulton Road, Fulton; 707-544-4446
www.urbantreefarm.com



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MAILING PANEL