



GO  
NATIVE!

January 27, 2026

# Presentation Agenda

**Native Plants in Morgan Hill – Then & Now**  
**Lesley Miles & Susan Farris**

**Valley Water Rebate Program - Kathy Kellerman**

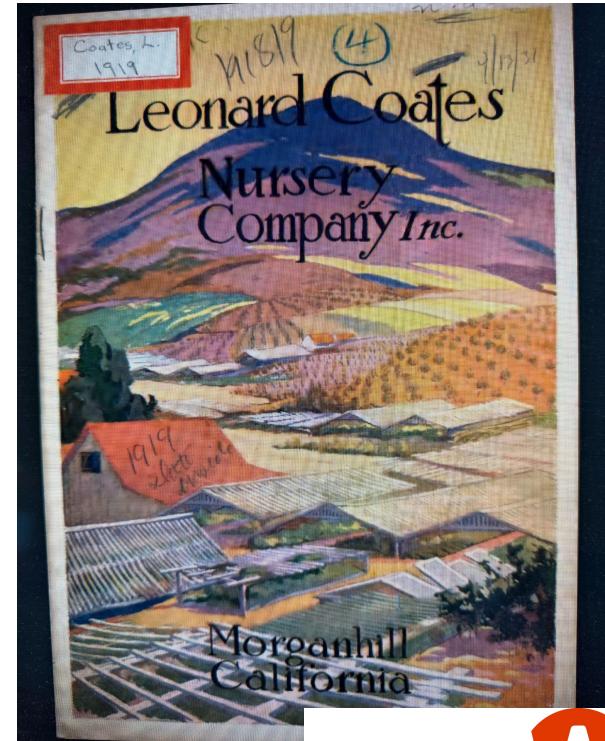
**Native Plants in Your Garden – Jenny Redfern**

**Local Native Plant Sourcing– Sierra Azul Nursery**

# Morgan Hill has a history of native plant breeding and growing!

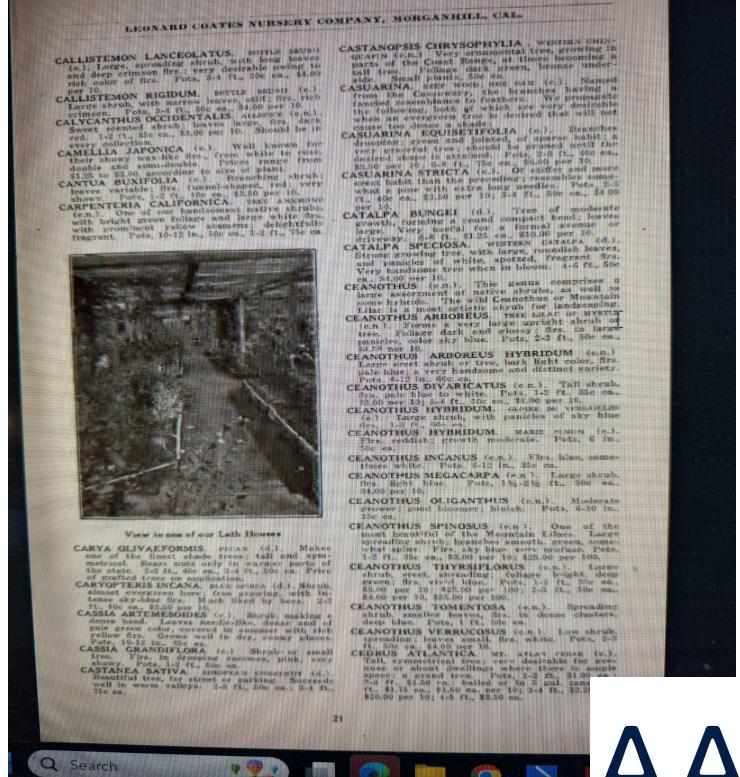
Leonard Coates- stated in an April 1926... Evolution of a Nursery

Some 25 years ago it was my ambition to make an exhaustive collection of California native plants and trees. An ex-forest ranger of the Santa Cruz mountains helped to collect seeds, and in a few years scores of varieties were growing thrifitly, by frequent transplanting became adapted for artificial planting.



# Leonard Coates plant lists from 1919 catalogue

ACACIA MELANOXYLON.	BLACK WATTLE (e.).	Tall symmetrical tree, well suited for street planting. Flowers yellow. Pots. 3-4 ft. \$26 ea. \$2.50 per 10; 6-8 ft., 500 ea. \$2.50 per 10.
ACACIA MOLLISSIMA (e.).	Large spreading tree, feathery foliage, and rich golden yellow fls. Pots. 2-3 ft. \$2.50 per 10; 4-5 ft., 500 ea. \$2.50 per 10; 6-8 ft., 500 ea. \$2.50 per 10.	
ACACIA NORNII.	Large spreading tree, low spreading tree, found growing almost anywhere in the Coast Range. Flowers yellow. Pots. 2-3 ft. \$2.50 per 10; 4-5 ft., 500 ea. \$2.50 per 10.	
ACACIA NORNII (var. BUCHANANII).	Large spreading shrub; plants and margins of narrow leaves either beautiful and distinct; new. Pots. 2-3 ft. 500 ea.	
ACACIA NORNII (var. BUCHANANII).	Large spreading shrub; plants and margins of narrow leaves either beautiful and distinct; new. Pots. 2-3 ft. 500 ea.	
ACACIA PENDULA.	Small tree, weeping leaves on pendulous branches. Flowers yellow. Pots. 2-3 ft. 500 ea. Very graceful habit; new. Pots. 2-3 ft. 500 ea.	
ACACIA PODALYRIIFOLIA.	Large leafy tree, flowers of crepe. 8 ft. From pots. 500 ea.	
AMORPHIA CALIFORNICA.	Large shrub or small tree with pinnate leaves like those of the Mimosa. Pots. 1-2 ft. 500 ea. \$2.50 per 10; 2-3 ft., 500 ea. \$2.50 per 10.	
AMYGDALUS CALIFORNICA.	Large shrub or small tree with pinnate leaves like those of the Mimosa. Pots. 1-2 ft. 500 ea. \$2.50 per 10; 2-3 ft., 500 ea. \$2.50 per 10.	
AMYGDALUS D RUBRA.	FLOWERING ALMOND (e.).	
AMYGDALUS D RUBRA.	White. Pots. 2-3 ft. 500 ea.	
AMYGDALUS D RUBRA.	Double white. Pots. 3 ft. 500 ea.	
AMYGDALUS D RUBRA.	Flowering Almond (e.).	
AMYGDALUS D RUBRA.	Double white. Pots. 3 ft. 500 ea.	
ARAUCARIA EXCELSA.	NORTHERN BALTIC PINE (e.).	
ARAUCARIA EXCELSA.	Needle foliage, well suited for pot culture. Succeeds well outdoors in the Coast region. Pots. 1-2 ft. 500 ea.	
ACACIA SAGINA.	Large tree, drooping branches; large leaves, bluish; new. Pots. 2-3 ft. 500 ea. \$2.50 per 10.	
ACACIA SPALDINGII (e.).	Small shrub, narrow leaves; fls. in axillary racemes; new. Pots. 2 ft. 500 ea.	
ACACIA VERTICILLATA.	Spreading shrub or small tree. Leaves short, need-like; in whorls; red fls. bluish; waxy-like, in drooping panicles; berries rich red. We have a splendid collection of this shrub in our 100 acre park and gardens. Pots. 1-2 ft. 600 ea. \$2.50 per 10; 2-3 ft. 500 ea. \$2.50 per 10.	
ACER CAMPESTRE.	ENGLISH MAPLE (e.).	
ACER CAMPESTRE.	Very ornamental; dark green foliage, retained late in the fall; flowers white; fruit red. Pots. 1-2 ft. 500 ea. \$2.50 per 10; 2-3 ft. 500 ea.	
ACER GLABRUM.	PEAK MAPLE (d.m.).	
ACER GLABRUM.	Grows mainly on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada; red fls. Pots. 2 ft. 500 ea.	
ACER JAPONICUM.	ACER JAPONICUM (e.).	
ACER JAPONICUM.	Small tree; very ornamental, finely cut leaves, turns red in Fall. Pots. 2 ft. 500 ea.	
ACER MONTICOLUM.	ACER MONTICOLUM (e.).	
ACER MONTICOLUM.	Very handsome street, avenue, or shade tree, which should be extensively planted; this is a native of California. Pots. 2 ft. 500 ea. \$2.50 per 10.	
ACER NEGREGO CALIFORNICUM.	BIG LEAF (e.).	
ACER NEGREGO CALIFORNICUM.	California's largest and best known tree. Strong growing; 6-8 ft. 500 ea.	
ACER SACCHARINUM.	SCARLET MAPLE (d.).	
ACER SACCHARINUM.	Native of Eastern United States. A small tree with long, wavy leaves, drooping clusters of coral-like flowers, and red berries. Small plants in pots did well in our gardens. Grows to great height, and useful as a screen. Chunks.	
ACIMINA TRILOBA.	YAN-WEI (e.).	
ACIMINA TRILOBA.	Small tree. Leaves turning red in fall; fls. reddish, appearing in early spring; fruit red; with aromatic flavor. Very ornamental. 1-2 ft. 500 ea.	
CARYA OLIVAEFORMIS.	PECAN (d.l.).	
CARYA OLIVAEFORMIS.	Makes one of the finest shade trees; tall and symmetrical. 2-3 ft. 500 ea. 3-4 ft. 500 ea. Price per tree.	
ARCTOSTAPHYLOS UVA-URSI.	TRAILING MANZANITA (e.).	
ARCTOSTAPHYLOS UVA-URSI.	Very handsome street, avenue, or shade tree, which should be extensively planted; this is a native of California. Pots. 1-2 ft. 500 ea. \$2.50 per 10.	
CASSIA ARTEMESIOIDES.	(e.).	
CASSIA ARTEMESIOIDES.	Shrub, making a pale green color; flowers needle-like, dense, and rich yellow; grows well in dry, sunny places. Pots. 10-12 in. 500 ea.	
CASANINA DODON.	(e.).	
CASANINA DODON.	Shrub or small tree, in dense racemes; flowers bright red. Pots. 1-2 ft. 500 ea.	
CASTANEA SATIVA.	ITALIAN CHESTNUT (d.).	
CASTANEA SATIVA.	Small tree for streets or parking. Succeeds well in warm valleys. 500 ea. 1-2 ft. 500 ea.	



View in one of our Lath Houses

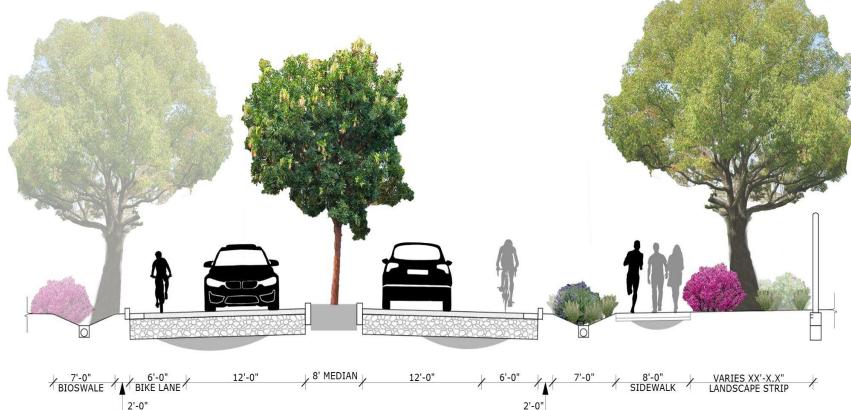
CARYA OLIVAEFORMIS.	PECAN (d.l.).	Makes one of the finest shade trees; tall and symmetrical. 2-3 ft. 500 ea. 3-4 ft. 500 ea. Price per tree.
CARYOPTERIS INCANA.	BLUETOOTH (e.).	Shrub, flowers blue; foliage dark green; stems sky-blue. Much liked by bees. 2-3 ft. 500 ea.
CASSIA ARTEMESIOIDES.	(e.).	Shrub, making a pale green color; flowers needle-like, dense, and rich yellow; grows well in dry, sunny places. Pots. 10-12 in. 500 ea.
CASANINA DODON.	(e.).	Shrub, or small tree, in dense racemes; flowers bright red. Pots. 1-2 ft. 500 ea.
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## A Bit of History...

Located where the Hale Extension meets West Dunne, the growing grounds of the Leonard Coates Nursery extended on both sides of West Dunne up into the foothills



# Hale Extension planting plan and clustering concept



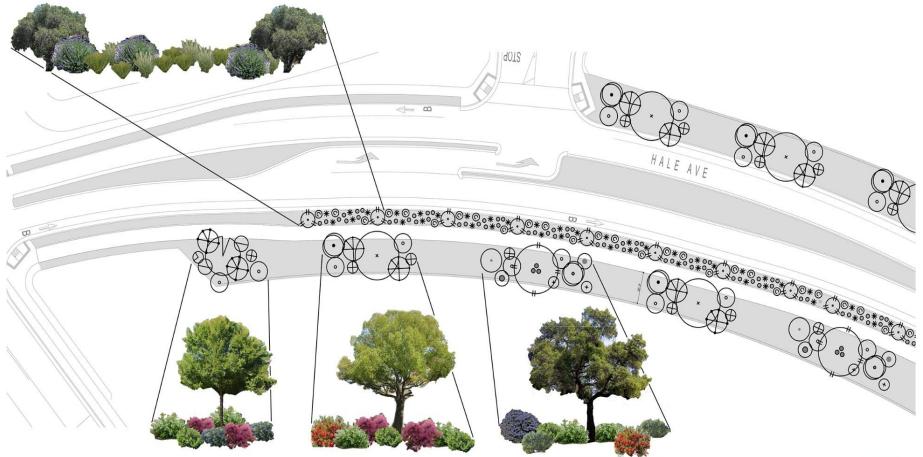
3/18' + 1'-0" 5/6/2021  
HALE EXTENSION LANDSCAPE REDesign

WESTON MILES  
Architecture • Landscape  
[Logo]

The Hale Avenue landscape walking path provides a unique opportunity to create an educational and innovative landscape with large planting areas to accommodate larger shade trees, shrubs, and mulched areas. The intent of the design is to focus on trees and shrubs that attract and provide habitat for birds and bees and address climate change.

The inclusion of plant materials native to California with reduced water requirements and only low water landscape bubblers will provide a blueprint for larger landscape spaces and also provide education for homeowners as they walk or bike along the pathways and bikeways.

The change in project design is consistent with the Habitat policies as well as Santa Clara County water wise planting practices.



1/32" + 1'-0" 5/6/2021  
HALE EXTENSION LANDSCAPE REDesign

CITY OF MORGAN HILL  
WESTON MILES  
Architecture • Landscape  
[Logo]

AAUW  
Morgan Hill (CA) Branch

# Blooming cycles and sequential pollinators and groupings

## WINTER BLOOMING and FRUITING

Arbutus Marina

Manzanita

Ceanothus

Coffeeberry

Toyon



## SPRING BLOOMING and FRUITING

Ceanothus

Redbud

Sage

Mimulus

Oak

Manzanita Arbutus

## SUMMER BLOOMING and FRUITING

Mimulus

Sage

Buckwheat

Toyon

Oregon Grape

## FALL BLOOMING and FRUITING

Oregon Grape

Mimulus

Buckwheat

Toyon

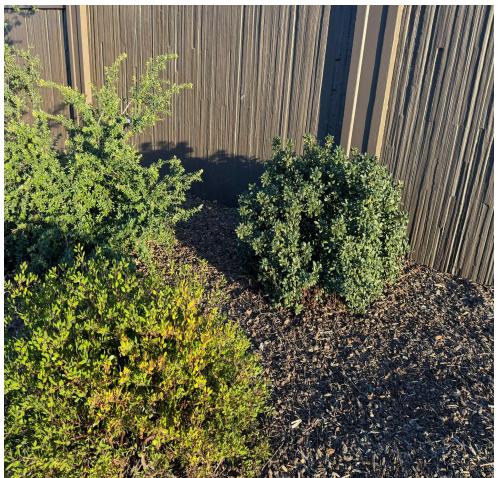
Sage

Coffeeberry

# 4th year analysis and lessons learned



- The most drought resistant-*Eriogonum fasciculatum*-Buckwheat
- The fastest growth-*Heteromeles arbutifolia*- Toyon or Christmas Berry
- The most delectable to deer- *Arctostaphylos 'Howard McMinn'*



- The most aromatic and profuse bloomer-*Salvia clevelandii*- Cleveland Sage, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*-Buckwheat
- The most organized, fire resistant and neat plant-*Frangula californica* 'Leatherleaf'-Dwarf Coffeeberry
- The most colorful and great for a small garden- *Mahonia aquifolium* 'compacta'
  - Oregon Grape
  -
- The most fussy- *Ceanothus* Ray Hartman

# Valley Water Rebate Program

5:03 PM Thu Jan 8

valleywater.dropletportal.com

Gilroy Locksmith (669)...

Documents | HubSpot

Watercolor Journey Thr...

clean energy program c...

Valley Water Landscap...

Valley Water Landscape Rebate Program

Home Get Started Support Resources Sign



Overview & Rates Landscape Conversion In-line Drip Lawn to Mulch Irrigation Equip. Rainwater Capture

Design Assistance

 **Valley Water**

Our Landscape Rebate Program can help you transform your thirsty yard into a beautiful water-wise landscape and make your irrigation equipment more efficient.

- Get \$200 for every 100 square feet of lawn or pool you convert, for a maximum of \$3,000 for residential sites, and \$100,000 for commercial and institutional sites. Some cost-sharing areas may be eligible for even more!
- Artificial turf is not rebated through this program**

**Bring your yard to life!**

Our rebates of up to \$3,000 help make the change!  
[WaterSavings.org](http://WaterSavings.org)



## Valley Water Landscape Rebate Program

[!\[\]\(0cc5c4c18dd72a91e21b90220aef9c5d\_img.jpg\) Home](#)

1. **CREATE A USER ACCOUNT** to submit your online application. Customers who do not have the ability to submit an online application should call (408) 630-2554 for assistance.
2. **PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT EXISTING SITE:** We need to know about the current condition of your yard. Include photos, the estimated size of the project area (square footage), and/or existing equipment information.
3. **PRE-INSPECTION:** Once we receive your initial application, we will contact you to schedule a pre-inspection, whether file or on-site, as needed.
4. **SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL:** Share the details on your dream yards! Tell us what you are planning to do with your project, what plants you will use for Landscape Conversion Projects, and how you will upgrade your irrigation system (please include quantity, make and models of the new efficient equipment).
5. **GET THE GREEN LIGHT:** After we issue your "Notice to Proceed", you will have 90 days to complete your project. Remember not to start your project before receiving approval!
6. **FINAL REVIEW:** Your project is done! Submit your completed project photos and/or receipts and we will contact you to schedule a post inspection if needed.
7. **CASH YOUR REBATE CHECK:** Your rebate check will be sent to you 4-6 weeks after the post-inspection is approved.

**REMEMBER! To qualify for the rebate, you must receive the Notice to Proceed BEFORE starting to remove your lawn/pool or buying the materials for your project.**

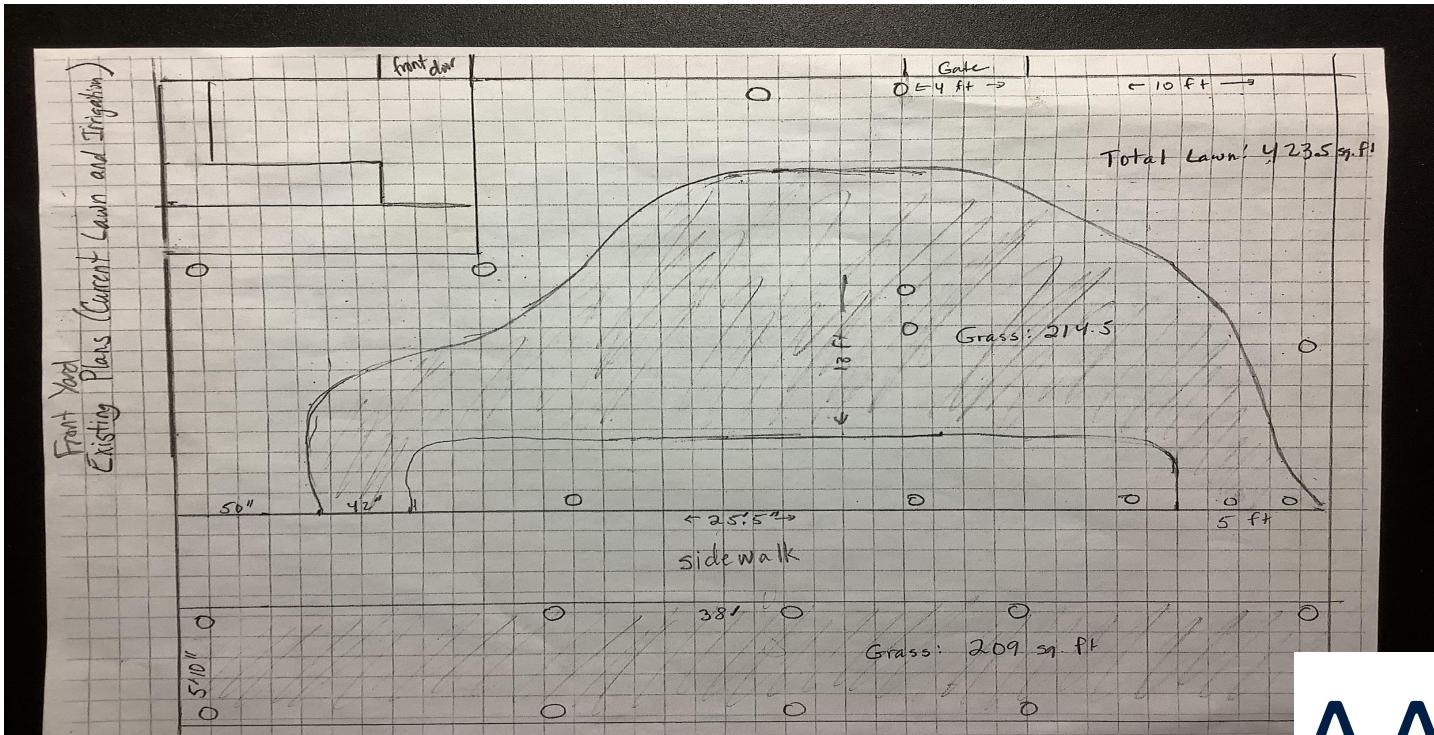
# Before



# Before



# Rough Map of Existing Yard (Example)



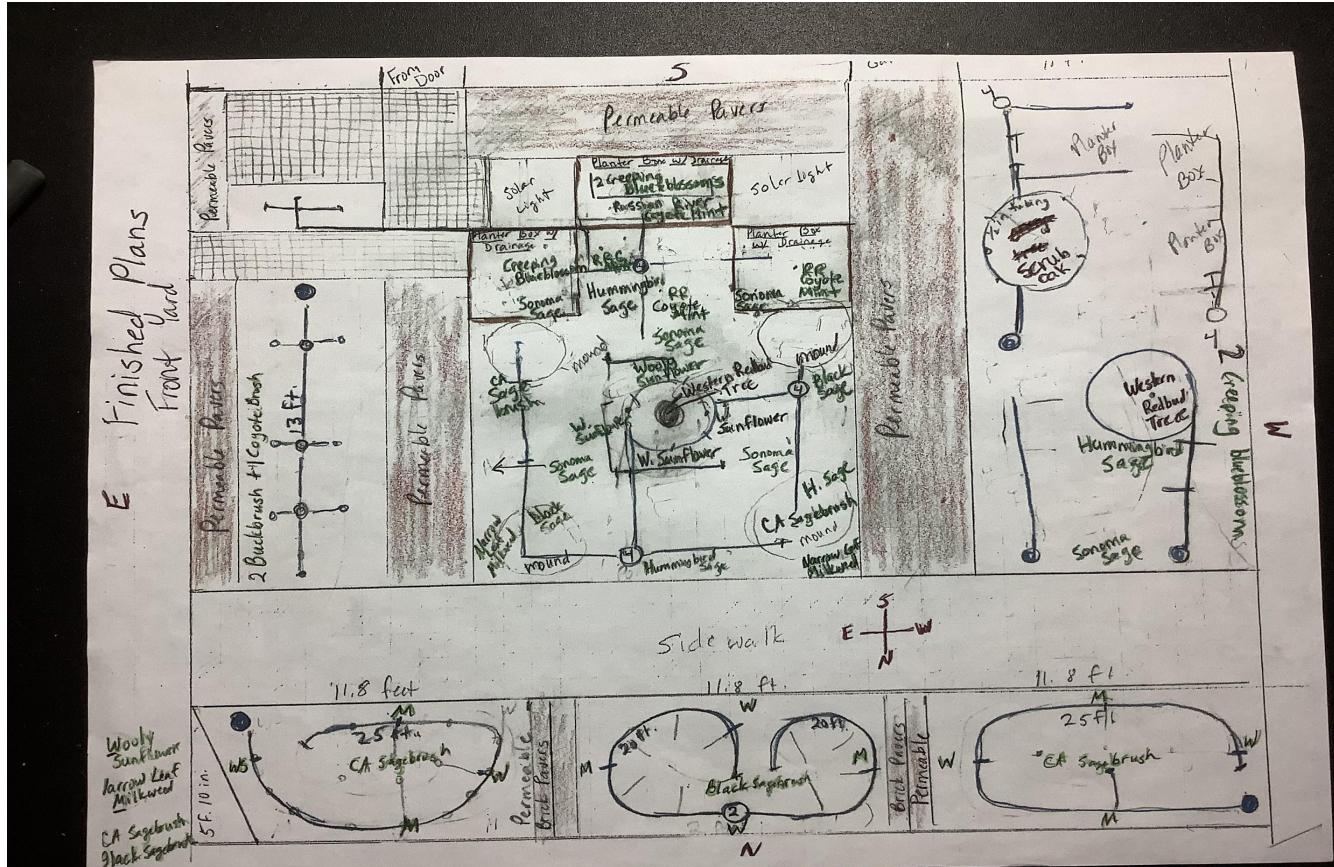
# Plant List (Example)

1:24 PM Mon Jan 26

## < Front Yard Plants

	A	B
1	Plant	Quantity
2		
3	Oregon Grape (Mahonia Aquifolium)	3
4	Western Redbud (Cercis occidentalis)	3
5	Cleveland Sage (Salvia Cleveland I)	3
6	CA Wild Lilac (Ceanothus)	1
7	Black Sage (Salvia melifera)	3
8	Sonoma Sage (Salvia so omens is)	6
9	Margarita BOP (Penstemon heterophyllus)	3
10	Monkey Flower (Diplacus aurantiacus)	1
11	Hummingbird Sage (Salvia spathacea)	1
12	Russian River Coyote Mint (Monardella villosa)	5
13	Wooly Sunflower (Eriophyllum Lana gum)	3
14	Canyon Grey Sagebrush (Artemesmia California)	2
15		

## Finished Plans (Example)



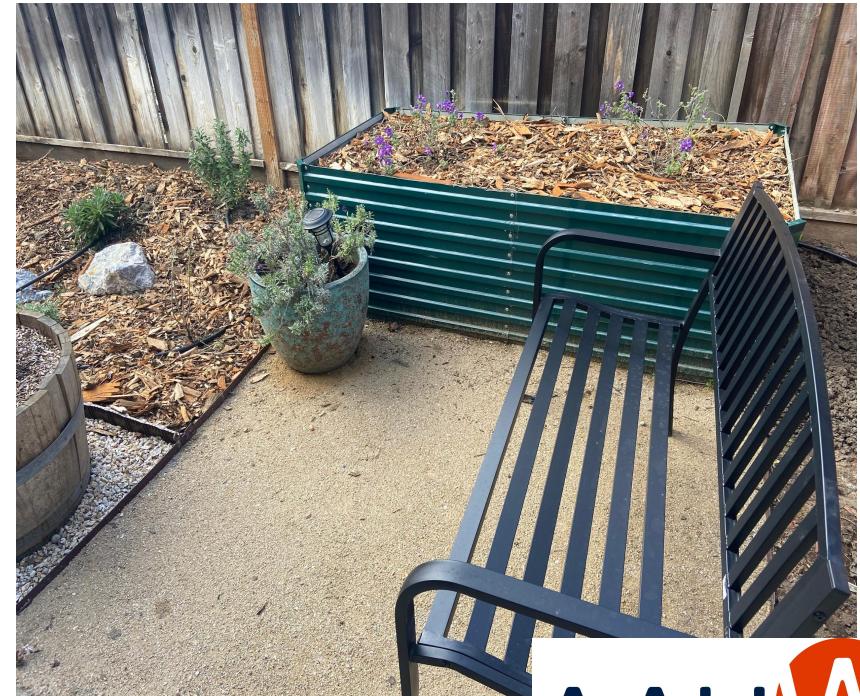
# After



# After



# Backyard



# Selecting Native Plants for Your Garden or Lawn Replacement

Jenny Redfern, MG

South County Teaching and Demo Garden



**UC Master Gardener**

University of California  
Agriculture & Natural Resources

**AAUW**  
Morgan Hill (CA) Branch

# What Do You Want When You're Done?

- Grass > maybe California thin (CA bent) grass
- Nice to look at > maybe Yarrow and Blue-eyed grass
- Attracts birds and bees > maybe Salvias like Bees' Bliss sage and White sage
- Shrub as focal point > maybe Toyon
- Tree for shade > maybe Valley oak or Pacific madrone
- Minimal care > maybe Deer grass ("Cousin Itt")

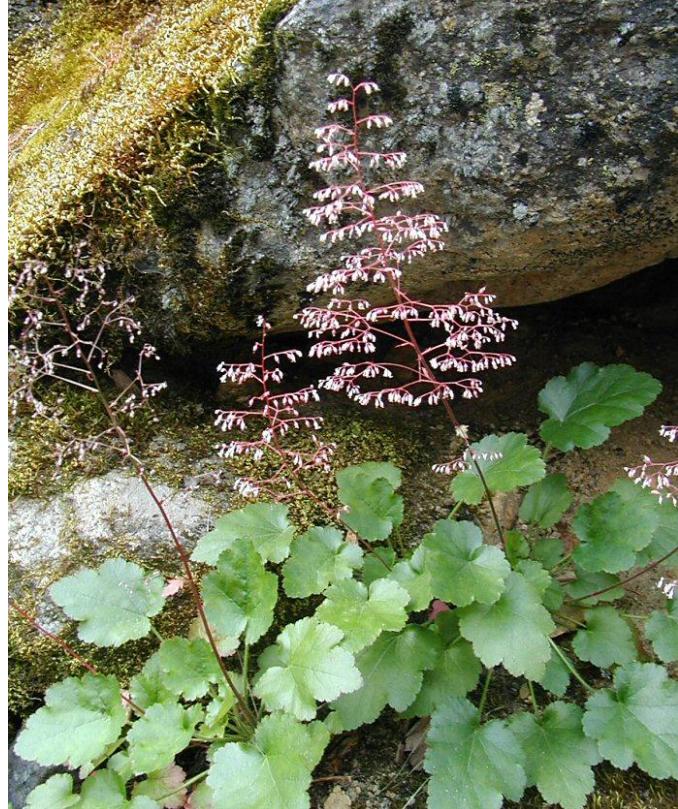


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## What will it look like? Seasons?



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Crevice alumroot *Heucera micrantha*  
Winter v. spring & summer

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“ Well, I want grass...”

CA thin grass *Agrostis pallens*



Deer grass *Muhlenbergia rigens*



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“I want color!”

Toyon *Heteromeles arbutifolia*

Madrone *Arbutus menziesii*



Barry Breckling



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# White Sage *Salvia apiana* Important to Indigenous peoples



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Bees love it! Very fragrant!

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# Research and Plan

- Area/s dimensions v. plant's space requirements
- Sun - partial shade - complete shade
- Irrigation: By hand? Drip already installed?
- Flat v. slope, sun exposure
- Existing trees and roots
- Group by plants' requirements
- Non-/flowering seasonal progression



# Where to Find Native Flowers Growing

- In spring and summer, take the Santa Clara County Parks Wildflower Tour.
- <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5de8e225102c43eba8c5f4bfbbbe701>
- Open Space Authority Santa Clara Valley Wildflower Guide
- <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/whats-new/santa-clara-valley-wildflower-guide>



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# Where to Find Native Plants

- MG Gardens at Martial Cottle Park @ Snell and Chenowyth in SJ - California Native Garden - fall and spring plant sales
- [Calscape.org](http://Calscape.org) - Make plans with Garden gallery, Design ideas - find requirements for planting, care, water
- California Native Plant Society - [cnps.org](http://cnps.org) - Santa Clara Valley chapter - plant sales
- Local garden stores with native plant sections



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# Native plants at the South County Teaching and Demo Garden



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# University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardener Program of Santa Clara County

<http://mastergardeners.org/scc.html>

- Volunteers trained by UC.
- Help desk for gardening advice M-F, 9:30am – 12:30pm at <https://mgscchelpdesk.zohodesk.com>
- Sign up for monthly email with gardening tips.
- Demonstration & research gardens.
- Integrated Pest Management [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)
- Talks, classes, demos, Spring and Fall Garden Markets.
- MG growing grounds and greenhouses at Martial Cottle Park.
- South County Teaching and Demo Garden at Monterey and Highland in San Martin, across from Animal Shelter. Mondays, 9am - noon.



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# Sierra Azul

NURSERY & GARDEN

**2660 E Lake Ave  
Watsonville, CA**

(@ the base of Hwy 152)



*Source for Mediterranean climate friendly  
plants including California natives!*



## Some popular natives:



- *Arctostaphylos* (Manzanita)
- *Eriogonum* (Buckwheat)
- *Salvia* (Sage)
- *Ceanothus* (CA Lilac)

# Sierra Azul

NURSERY & GARDEN

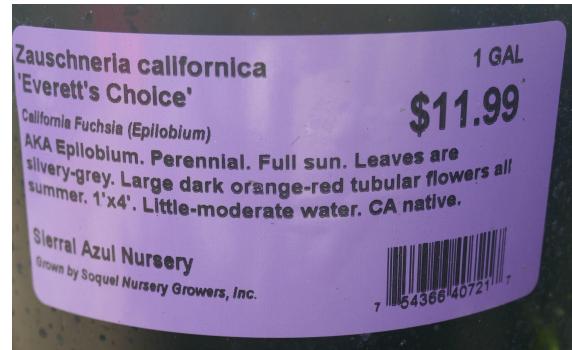
Plus a 2-acre sculpture garden!





Labels are your friend!

Tips for understanding Plant Labels



- Genus species 'Variety/selection/cultivar'
- Common names
- Plant type
- Plant size (height x width)
- Flower color & timing
- Sun exposure & water needs
- Soil drainage requirements
- Cold hardiness

# Sierra Azul

NURSERY & GARDEN



[www.sierraazul.com](http://www.sierraazul.com)  
Open 7 days a week  
10am - 5pm