

INVITING GARDENS
LANDSCAPE DESIGN
& HORTICULTURE

ONGOING CARE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Keep dated records of amendment applications, pruning tasks, and pest observations.
- Prune with hand tools. Do not shear or hedge shrubs.
- Sharpen hand pruning tools.
- Clean pruners with alcohol after use to avoid transfer of pathogens between plants.
- Scatter generous amounts of compost or blended organic amendments throughout the garden annually. Apply before rain or follow with hand watering.
- Keep mulch (wood mulch or natural duff) 2" thick to prevent moisture loss and minimize weeds.
- Hand water plants lightly at the end of the day during high temperature weather to reduce overnight evapotranspiration and clear plant pores for the evening rest period.
- Remove weeds manually as they appear.
- Compress soil mounds & tunnels from mole, vole & gopher activity. Pay particular attention to fence lines, hardscape edges, and around root zones of new plantings.
- Avoid using persistent and broad-spectrum pesticides.
- Do not apply pesticides of any kind to flowers in bloom.
- Use electric or battery-operated leaf blowers only, on low settings, to clear hardscape, driveways and walkways.
- Keep gutters and areas around downspouts clear during rainy seasons. Know where the rainwater drains to on your property. Avoid allowing water to runoff to the street.
- Check for broken irrigation emitters, leaks, and water runoff in the spring before resuming regular irrigation schedules.
- Follow local ordinances and water conservation practices once your garden is established.
 - MENLO PARK : <https://beta.menlopark.org/Government/Departments/Public-Works/Utilities/Menlo-Park-Municipal-Water>
 - PALO ALTO : <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Utilities/Sustainability/Water-Conservation-and-Drought-Updates>
 - LOS ALTOS : <https://www.losaltosca.gov/publicworks/page/city-los-altos-drought-information>

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WHY use ORGANIC fertilizers & amendment?

Organic material feeds the soil microbiome which leads to improved soil structure & drainage [+] improved soil carbon retention. Organic fertilizers are derived from natural sources (e.g., livestock and poultry excreta, plant residues, biogas residue, and agricultural by-products) and their use is broadly beneficial to the ecosystem in your garden. Synthetic fertilizers are manufactured from minerals, natural gas & inorganic waste. Prolonged use can destroy entire populations of essential soil microbes, degrade soil structure, and contaminate groundwater.

WHY use ELECTRIC or BATTERY-POWERED garden equipment vs gasoline?

Crude 2-stroke gas engines are a source of heat-trapping green-house gasses. The exhaust contains smog-forming hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide & particulate matter. Their use poses multiple health risks to operator, including asthma, cardiovascular disease, and hearing loss.

MORE INFORMATION

UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/index.html>

California Native Plant Society <https://www.cnps-scv.org/>

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

UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara <https://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/>

UC Master Gardeners of San Mateo & SF <https://smsf-mastergardeners.ucanr.edu/>

Native Oaks <https://oaks.cnr.berkeley.edu/>

World Flora Online <http://www.worldfloraonline.org/>

Kew Science <https://www.kew.org/science>

Plant societies & organizations <https://ahsgardening.org/gardening-resources/societies-clubs-organizations/>

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation <https://xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves>