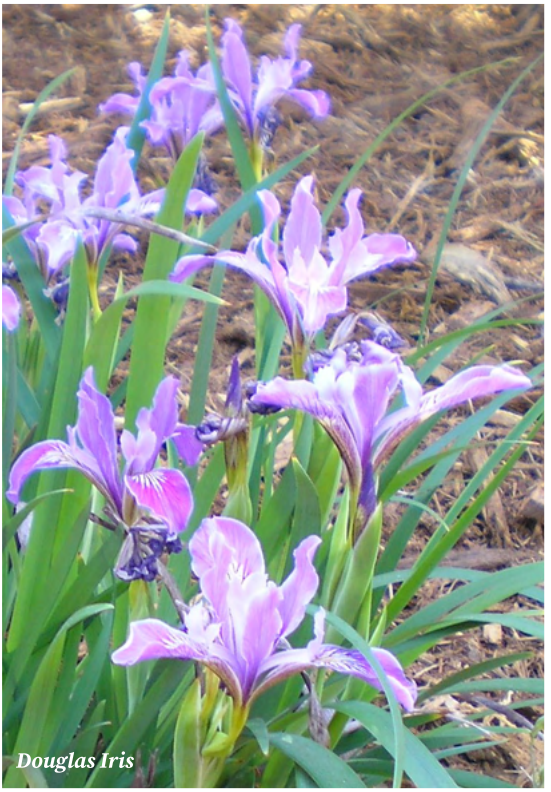


Douglas Iris

GUIDE TO THE Water-wise Garden

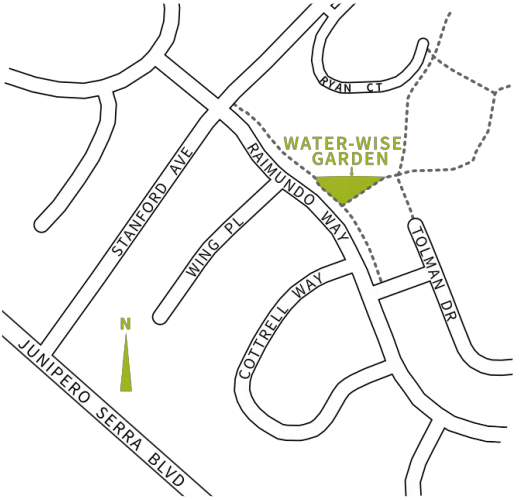
Designed, constructed, and maintained by
Grounds Services
bgm.stanford.edu

Original materials donated by
Boething Treefarm, Monterey Bay Nursery, Rainbird, San Marcos Growers, and Valleycrest Tree Company

Location
Off Raimundo Way, near intersection with Stanford Ave

Opened
June 2003

Go online to
suwater.stanford.edu/water-wise-garden for a plant list, irrigation specifications, and more information



Sponsored by
Stanford University
Water Resources and Civil Infrastructure
suwater.stanford.edu

Plant Selection

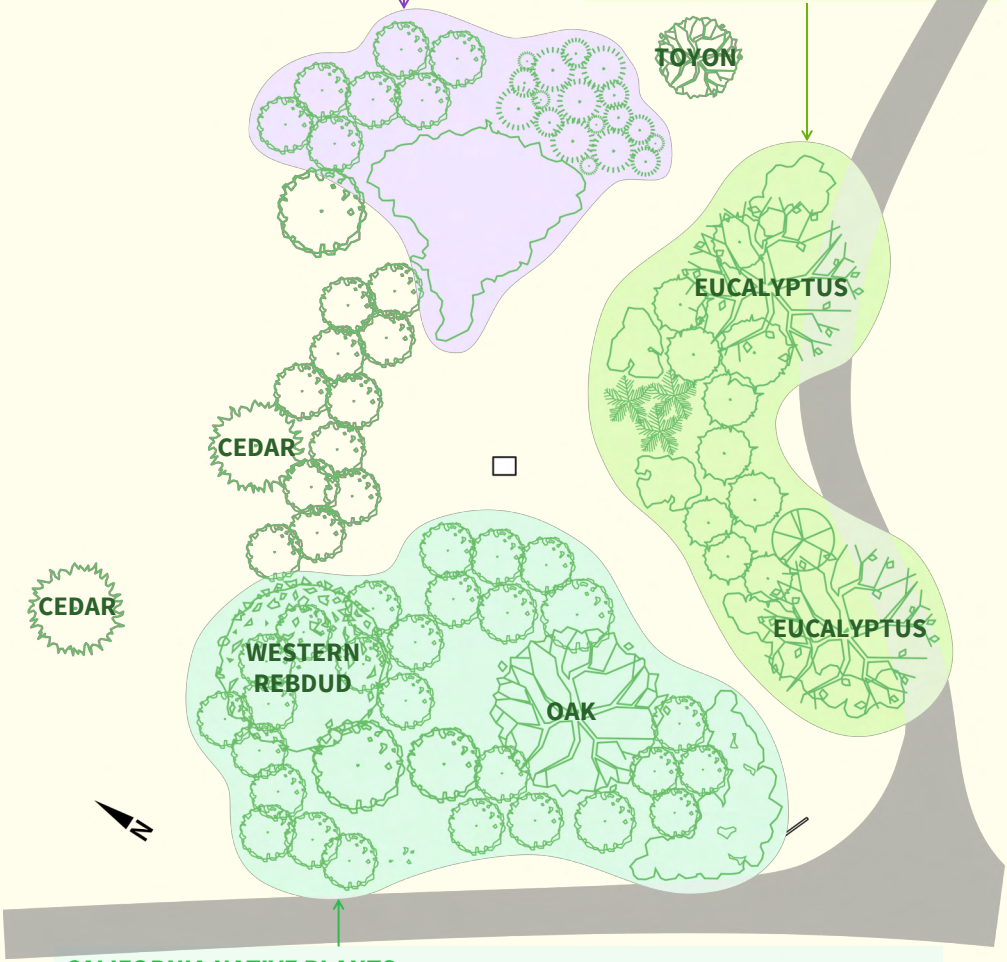
LAWN SUBSTITUTES

Low-water-use plants such as bunch grasses and Yarrow can be used as substitutes for ornamental lawn. Most are not suitable as playing surfaces, but require much less water and maintenance than turf grass.

Yarrow can be left to grow about a foot tall with small flowers or mowed to 3 inches.

A "MEDITERRANEAN" GARDEN

Plants from other parts of the world with mild temperatures and rainy/dry seasons can thrive in the Bay Area. This includes Eucalyptus trees, whose fallen leaves are full of tannins that suppress other plants. This section of the garden shows how species from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and the Mediterranean can grow successfully alongside existing Eucalyptus.



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS

Native plants typically require less water, fertilizer, and pruning than non-native plants. Remember, minimize watering within the dripline of mature oak trees in summer months to prevent root disease.

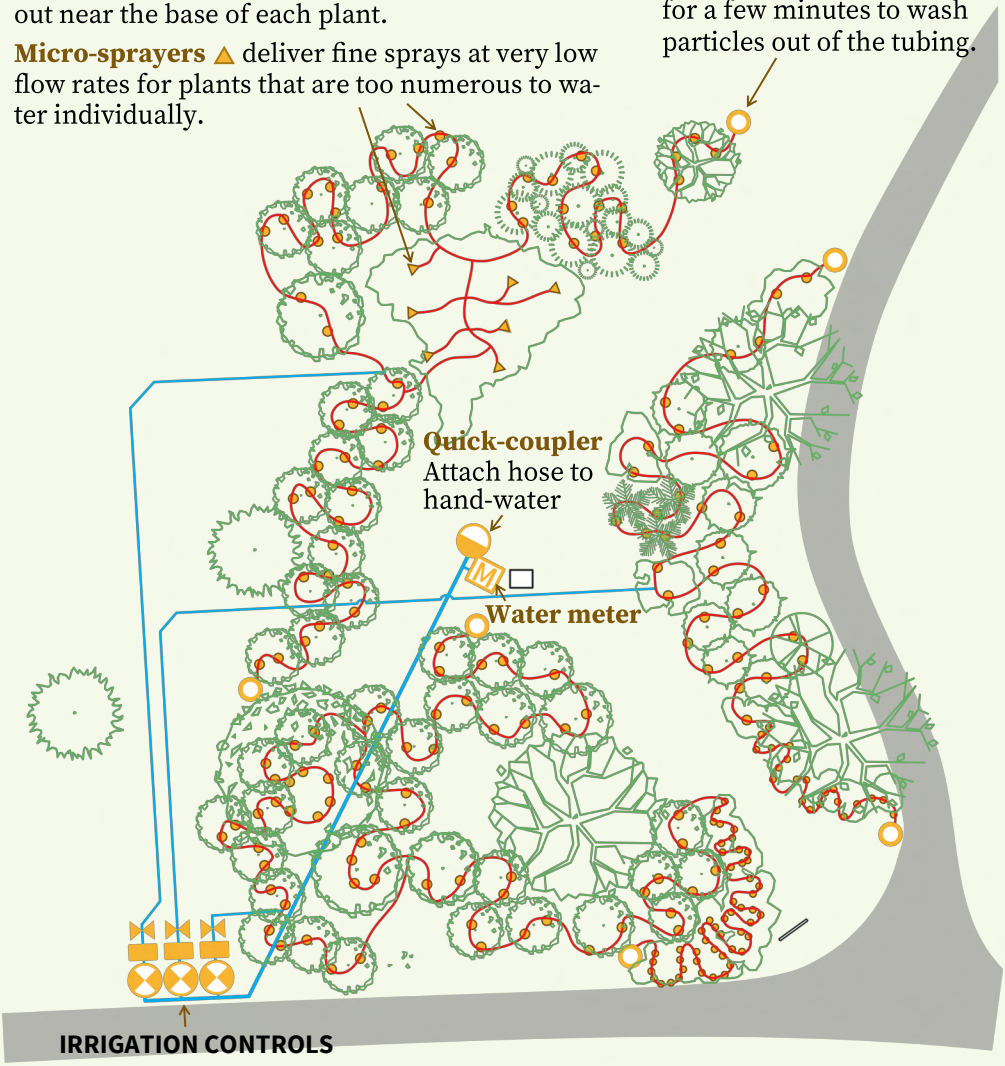
Irrigation

DRIP IRRIGATION is perfect for shrubs and groundcovers because it delivers water to each plant at the roots instead of spraying water all over.

Emitters allow a limited trickle of water to drip out near the base of each plant.

Micro-sprayers deliver fine sprays at very low flow rates for plants that are too numerous to water individually.

Drip systems need periodic flushing to prevent emitters from clogging. **Flush valves** at the end of each main drip line are opened for a few minutes to wash particles out of the tubing.



Filters prevent small particles from clogging emitters and micro-sprayers

Pressure regulators reduce water pressure to the 15-25 pounds per square inch (PSI) required by drip systems

Anti-siphon valves prevent water from being drawn back into the drinking water supply. Additionally, our valves are programmed with a Rainbird irrigation controller to start and stop watering at specified times each week, based on plant needs and the season of the year.

Water-Wise Gardening Tips

General

- Mulch to slow evaporation and suppress weeds
- Group plants according to water needs (find at ucanr.edu/sites/wucols/plant_search)
- Replace lawn with drought tolerant or native plants (see below for resources and rebates)

Irrigation

- Reposition sprinklers so water does not land on paved areas
- Water your lawn only when it needs it. If your grass springs up after stepping on it, it has enough water!
- Use "cycle and soak" watering to reduce runoff. Schedule short runs of irrigation followed by rest periods for water to soak in
- Water in early morning or late evening, to reduce evaporation
- Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, sprinklers and couplings

More Resources

Stanford Water Department

Visit our Water Resources website or call our Water Information Line to find rebates and water conservation information: suwater.stanford.edu/rebates (650) 725-8030

Landscape Classes

Attend a free gardening workshop offered by the Bay Area Water Conservation and Supply Agency: bawsca.org/classes

Western Redbud

Going Native Garden Tour

Visit other native gardens by attending the Going Native Garden Tour, held annually in May: gngt.org

More Native Gardening Resources

See gardening tips and a list of local nurseries from the California Native Plant Society (Santa Clara Valley chapter): cnps-scv.org/gardening/gardening-resources (650) 260-3450

Last updated: May 2020