



Replacing Your Lawn

Why Remove a Lawn?

- Save water.
- Less work (mowing)
- Less pesticide and fertilizer
- Room to plant something better
- Better for trees

Less Water!

- Average 232 gal/person/day 1990
- Average 178 gal/person/day 2010
- About ½ goes to landscape use.
- 35-44 gal/square foot of lawn per year = 70,000 gal/year for 2000 square foot lawn.

Less Fertilizer

- Lawns need lots to look good.
- More fertilizer → more water needed.
- Fertilizer runoff into waterways.

Better for Trees

- Any grass within 3-4 feet of the tree inhibits tree growth.
- Shallow tree roots because of frequent irrigation.
- Watering lawns kills native oaks, esp. Blue Oaks.

Options for Replacement

- Au Natural
- Edible garden
- Wood chips or shredded bark
- Hardscape—rocks, gravel, deck, patio walkways.....
- Flowers

Herbicides

- If you have Bermuda or zoysia grass.
- Spray with glyphosate (Roundup) and wait a few days.
- Roundup may take 2 weeks to show effect.
- Grass must be green when it is sprayed.
- Water and wait for new grass sprouts.
- Spray again.
- Repeat until grass is dead.
- Rototill or sheet mulch if you want to plant something else.

Solarize

- Cover damp lawn with heavy clear plastic.
- Let sit in the summer sun for 4-6 weeks.
- Kills grass, most weeds and soil borne diseases and pests.
- Beneficial microorganisms return quickly.
- <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74145.html>

Mechanical

- Rent a sod cutter.
- Water after removal.
- Wait a few weeks.
- Spray or dig up grass shoots.
- Lots of hard work.
- Beware shallow tree roots.
- Turn over sod and then sheet mulch.
- May be best if lawn was laid as sod.
- Plastic mesh in sod?

Sheet Mulch

- Water grass.
- Cover with cardboard or layers of newspaper.
- Cover with a few inches of compost, manure, leaves, grass clippings, straw or shavings.
- Water well.
- Improves the soil for planting.
- Wait at least a month.
- http://ucanr.edu/sites/scmg/Lawn_Replacement/Grass_Removal_Methods/

Weed Control

- Weed cloth.
- Pre-emergent weed killer, such as Preen or Weed Impede.
- Pull 'em by hand.
- Spray with glyphosate (Roundup) or other weed killer.
- Lots of mulch.

Ground Covers

- Wood chips or shredded bark.
- Gravel and rocks get HOT.
- Low growing plants
- Juniper = a little green gas can, according to CDF

Avoid Water-thirsty Trees

Birch, Redwood, Red Maple, Magnolia

http://selectree.calpoly.edu/search_results.lasso

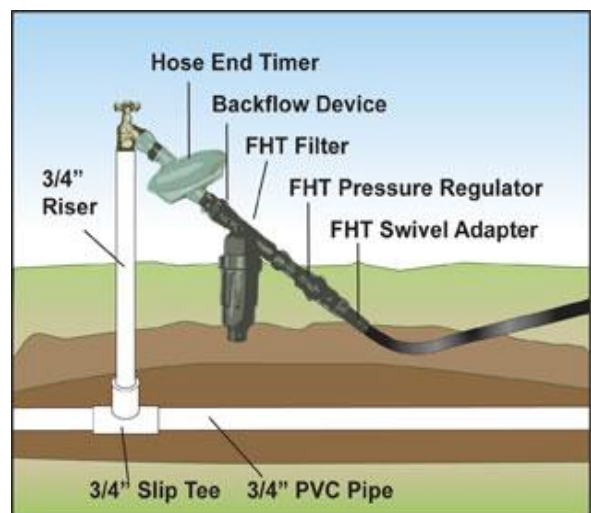
Avoid Invasive Plants

Ivy, Broom, Vinca major, Green Fountain Grass, Mexican Feather Grass, Chinese Tallow tree, Pampas Grass, Russian Olive Tree, Water Hyacinth.

<http://www.plantright.org/invasive-plants-california-region>

Sprinkler to Drip

- “Google” drip irrigation system.
- Reduce water pressure to 20-30 psi.
- Filter if on well water.
- Antisiphon valves required.
- Timers
- Valves must not be lower than drippers.
- Limit to how long hoses may be.
- Limit to how many drippers.
- Keep slugs out of antisiphon valves.



Parts

- 1/2 or 1/4 inch hose with inline emitter every 6-12 inches.
- Drip tape.
- In line valves.
- Shrubblers
- 1-4 gal/hour drippers
- Sprayers

Resources

- **calflora.com** Shows which native plants grow naturally in which parts of California, and what their favored habitat is.
- **WUCOLS IV** (Water Utilization Classification of Landscape Species, fourth edition)- **www.ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/Plant_Search/**. Plant database searchable for low or very low water use plants for our area, native and not native. (note: Placerville is found under “Central Valley”)
- **UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars**- http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant_search.aspx 100 tough, garden worthy, low water use plants for Central California. Can search for specific plant characteristics, and for native plants with those characteristics.
- **Calscape.com** Can find what’s native to your area, and can search by desired characteristic (perennial, small, etc.)
- **pollinator.org** Enter your zip code for a guide specific to your area. Includes excellent tables of flower color/timing/plant size/needs etc. of natives
- **laspilitas.com** Detailed info on garden needs of specific Calif. native plants