These plants have been selected because they are attractive, often available in nurseries, non-invasive, easy to maintain, long-term performers, scaled for residential landscapes, and of course, once established — drought tolerant.

The Nifty-50 plants thrive in California’s semiarid climate. Become environmentally aware of what makes our region distinctly beautiful!

The Nifty-50 plants are labeled and on display at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College. The five-acre public garden is an excellent place to get ideas for a new or retrofitted landscape that looks beautiful and saves water, time, and money.

The Garden is open every day from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (Call for summer hours.) Tours are offered each Saturday morning and by appointment. There are classes, workshops, and gardening festivals for the entire family.

Go to www.thegarden.org or call 619-660-0614 x10 for further information.

10 Water-Saving Tips for your Garden

* Check your local water agency's conservation garden or center. Consider replacing tired, thirsty landscaping with the water-wise equivalent.
* Develop a schedule for watering your lawn and property using the landscape watering calculator at www.bewaterwise.com/calculator.html.
* Water only before dawn or after dusk to reduce water loss after dark.
* Fix leaking sprinklers, valves, and pipes. A broken sprinkler wastes 10 gallons per minute or 100 gallons in a typical 10-minute watering cycle. Fix leaking sprinklers, valves, and pipes.
* Replace lawn areas with water smart groundcovers, trees, and shrubs.
* Create a schedule of how much water your plants need and how often to water with your finger or shovel and wait until the soil is dry 2 or 3 inches below the surface before watering again.
* Check soil moisture using a digital soil moisture meter or an inexpensive, home-made water sensor.
* Reduce evaporation and wind after dark to reduce water loss.
* Create a schedule of how much deep watering or watering during the night is dry 2 or 3 inches below the surface to reduce water loss and 1 to 2 days per week for grass. Other plants: Cut summer watering to 2 or 3 days per week for grass.
* Place a 2- or 3-inch layer of mulch over bare dirt to reduce water evaporation, improve the soil, and help control weeds. Place a 2- or 3-inch layer of mulch over bare dirt to reduce water evaporation, improve the soil, and help control weeds.

For further information, go to www.waterconserve.org or call 619-660-0614 x10.
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10 Water-Saving Tips for your Garden

1. Cut summer watering to 2 or 3 days per week for grass, and 1 to 2 days per week for other plants.

2. In winter, irrigate only if needed, to maintain some moisture in the soil.

3. Check soil moisture using your finger or shovel and wait until the soil is dry 2 or 3 inches deep before watering.

4. Create a schedule of how much and how often to water with the landscape watering calculator at www.bewaterwise.com/calculator.html

5. Water only before dawn and after dusk to reduce water loss due to evaporation and wind.

6. Fix leaking sprinklers, valves and pipes. A broken spray sprinkler wastes 10 gallons per minute or 100 gallons in a typical 10 minute watering cycle.

7. Place a 2- or 3-inch layer of mulch over bare dirt to reduce water evaporation, improve the soil, and help control weeds.

8. Replace lawn areas with water smart groundcovers, trees and shrubs whenever possible.

9. Check with your water agency for water use surveys and rebates on irrigation equipment.

10. Attend classes on water smart landscaping. Visit the Water Conservation Garden or contact your local water agency.

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Plants for Water Smart Landscapes

These plants have been selected because they are attractive, often available in retail nurseries, non-invasive, easy to maintain, long-term performers, scaled for residential landscapes, and of course, once established — drought tolerant. In some cases, there are so many excellent water smart plants in a particular group, like salvias, that we chose the group, and gave several examples.

**Tree**

1. **Manzanita**
   - Arctostaphylos species & hybrids, N
2. **California Lilac**
   - Syringa 
3. **Western Redbud**
   - Cercis occidentalis, N
4. **Geraldton Waxflower**
   - Chamellocarpus uncinatus
5. **Rockrose**
   - Cistus species
6. **Ice Plant**
   - Lampranthus species
7. **Grevillea**
   - Grevillea species and hybrids, N
8. **Texas Ranger**
   - Leucophyllum species
9. **Oregon Grape**
   - Mahonia aquifolium, N
10. **Common Myrtle**
    - Myrtus communis
11. **Rosemary**
    - Rosmarinus officinalis
12. **Coast Rosemary**
    - Westringia fruticosa
13. **Live Forever**
    - Diascia species and hybrids, N
14. **Hens-and-Chickens**
    - Echeveria species and hybrids

**Groundcover**

1. **Carmel Creeper**
   - Dymondia margaretae
2. **Silver Carpet**
   - Pennisetum setaceum
3. **New Zealand Cabbage**
   - Muhlenbergia capillaris
4. **Huntington Carpet Rosemary**
   - Rosmarinus officinalis ‘Lockwood de Forest’
5. **Red Fountain Grass**
   - Penstemon heterophyllus, N
6. **Showy Penstemon**
   - Penstemon heterophyllus, N
7. **Lampranthus species**
   - Lampranthus species
8. **Northgate Penstemon**
   - Penstemon spectabilis, N
9. **Coast Rosemary**
   - Westringia fruticosa
10. **Perennial Thyme**
    - Thymus pulegioides
11. **California Lilac**
    - Syringa
12. **Native Perennials**
    - Penstemon, Native species
13. **New Zealand Flax**
    - Harminia set医xium
14. **Perennials**
    - Penstemon heterophyllus, N
15. **Pistache**
    - Pistacia chinesis
16. **Tagetes Perennial**
    - Tagetes lemmonii
17. **Chinese Pistache**
    - Pistacia chinensis
18. **Cistus species**
    - Cistus species
19. **Mexican Tarragon**
    - Artemisia tridentata
20. **Mexican Honeysuckle**
    - Lonicera pseudoscentifolia
21. **California Wild Grapes**
    - Vitis californica, N

**Grass**

1. **New Zealand Cabbage**
   - Muhlenbergia capillaris
2. **California Sunflower**
   - Helianthus debilis
3. **Salvia chamaedryoides**
   - Salvia Africana lutea
4. **Copper Canyon Daisy**
   - Tagetes lucida
5. **Mexican Tarragon**
   - Artemisia tridentata
6. **Tagetes lemmonii**
   - Tagetes lemmonii
7. **Mexican Sunflower**
   - Helianthus debilis
8. **Baja California Sunflower**
   - Helianthus debilis
9. **Mexican Sunflower**
   - Helianthus debilis
10. **Tagetes lemmonii**
    - Tagetes lemmonii
11. **Mexican Tarragon**
    - Artemisia tridentata
12. **Tagetes lemmonii**
    - Tagetes lemmonii

**Succulent**

1. **Aloe**
   - Aloe species and hybrids
2. **Rock Pansy**
   - Calandrinia grandiflora
3. **Yellow Orchid Vine**
   - Monilaria, Native species and hybrids
4. **Hens-and-Chickens**
   - Echeveria species and hybrids
5. **Live Forever**
   - Diascia species and hybrids, N
6. **Hens-and-Chickens**
   - Echeveria species and hybrids
7. **Hens-and-Chickens**
   - Echeveria species and hybrids
8. **Hens-and-Chickens**
   - Echeveria species and hybrids
9. **Hens-and-Chickens**
   - Echeveria species and hybrids
10. **Hens-and-Chickens**
    - Echeveria species and hybrids

**Shrubs**

1. **Manzanita**
   - Arctostaphylos species & hybrids, N
2. **California Lilac**
   - Syringa
3. **Western Redbud**
   - Cercis occidentalis, N
4. **Geraldton Waxflower**
   - Chamellocarpus uncinatus
5. **Rockrose**
   - Cistus species
6. **Grevillea**
   - Grevillea species and hybrids, N
7. **Texas Ranger**
   - Leucophyllum species
8. **Oregon Grape**
   - Mahonia aquifolium, N
9. **Common Myrtle**
   - Myrtus communis
10. **Rosemary**
    - Rosmarinus officinalis
11. **Coast Rosemary**
    - Westringia fruticosa
12. **Live Forever**
    - Diascia species and hybrids, N
13. **Hens-and-Chickens**
    - Echeveria species and hybrids

**Trees**

1. **Manzanita**
   - Arctostaphylos species & hybrids, N
2. **California Lilac**
   - Syringa
3. **Western Redbud**
   - Cercis occidentalis, N
4. **Geraldton Waxflower**
   - Chamellocarpus uncinatus
5. **Rockrose**
   - Cistus species
6. **Grevillea**
   - Grevillea species and hybrids, N
7. **Texas Ranger**
   - Leucophyllum species
8. **Oregon Grape**
   - Mahonia aquifolium, N
9. **Common Myrtle**
   - Myrtus communis
10. **Rosemary**
    - Rosmarinus officinalis
11. **Coast Rosemary**
    - Westringia fruticosa
12. **Live Forever**
    - Diascia species and hybrids, N
13. **Hens-and-Chickens**
    - Echeveria species and hybrids

*Includes Ornamental Grasses & Grass-like Plants*
enchant your garden or patio.

Maintain and check your water efficiency.

Some water issues possible.

Regrow whose areas with water smart groundcovers, trees, and shrubs. Avoid waste, and water your garden efficiently.

Enjoy the water savings cycle.

In a typical 10 minute sprinkler watering zone, 1/10 gallon per minute of 100 gallons. Fix leaking sprinklers, valves, and pipes. A 2- or 3-inch layer of mulch over bare dirt to reduce the need for added water. Please 2 or 3-inch layer of pelleted water smart fertilizers. Read product labels.

Nifty 50 Photo credits by number: GardensSoft 9, 14, 16, 21, 31, 35, 37 (far right), 48; David Yetz 13, 15, 18; Don Schultz 41, 43; Janet Rademacher 37 (middle), 39 (bottom); Susan Frommer 37 (far right).

Cut summer watering to 2 or 3 days per week for grass, and 1 to 2 days per week for other plants.

Create a schedule of how much and how often to water with the landscape watering calculator at www.bewaterwise.com/calculator.html

Water only before dawn and after dusk to reduce water loss after dark to reduce water loss.

Check soil moisture using a moisture meter.

In winter, irrigate only if needed, and 1 to 2 days per week for grass.

Cut summer watering to 2 or 3 days per week for grass. Nifty 50 Photo credits by number: GardensSoft 9, 14, 16, 21, 31, 35, 37 (far right), 48; David Yetz 13, 15, 18; Don Schultz 41, 43; Janet Rademacher 37 (middle), 39 (bottom); Susan Frommer 37 (far right).

10 Water-Saving Tips for your Garden

For further information, go to www.waterauthority.org or call 619-660-0614 x710.

The Nifty-50 plants have been selected because they are attractive, often available in nurseries, non-invasive, easy to maintain, long-term performers, scaled for residential landscapes, and of course, once established — require very little water.

Cut summer watering to 2 or 3 days per week for grass, and 1 to 2 days per week for other plants.

In winter, irrigate only if needed, and 1 to 2 days per week for grass.

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