

A Do-it-Yourselfer? ***Design your own landscape***

The average home in Southern California uses up to 70 percent of its water on the landscape. Careful planning, appropriate plant choices, and efficient water practices can ensure a beautiful and colorful landscape—one that saves water, time and money. Landscape designs need to take into account soil conditions, drainage, wind, sun, slopes, entertaining needs and water-use areas.

The following activity will give you a chance to put the lessons you've learned in the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation Demonstration Garden together to create a water-conserving garden plan, based on some issues to consider about your landscape.

Materials Needed:

- Construction paper
- Inland Empire Garden Friendly Plant List
- Graph Paper for draft designs

Design Checklist

- List the plants —trees, shrubs, groundcovers and flowers in your current landscape.
- Now, list the plants—trees, shrubs, groundcovers and flowers that appealed to you in the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation Demonstration Garden. List their common name, scientific name and general characteristics. This will help you when it comes time to order the items.
- Compare the two lists. Are there areas that you can supplant water efficient plants for their higher water using counterparts?

Put your plans on paper

- On a piece of construction paper, label the directions—North, South, East and West.
- Place a square representing your home in the center of the paper, making sure the orientation of your square is the same as the orientation of your house.
- Use the graph paper to create specialty items that already exist or which you would like to place in the landscape, such as walkways, patio, play equipment, outdoor cooking equipment, a lawn area (experiment with shapes), a dog house, or a water feature such as a fountain or pond.
- In determining what to put in your design, ask yourself questions about how you use your landscape, how much time you want to devote to maintenance, what kind of colors and scents you'd like your garden to produce and what kind of wildlife you want to attract.
- Let the answers guide your design choices.