

# **Designing Water-Wise & Deer-Resistant Landscapes & Gardens**



# Whether it be a Rock Garden Theme

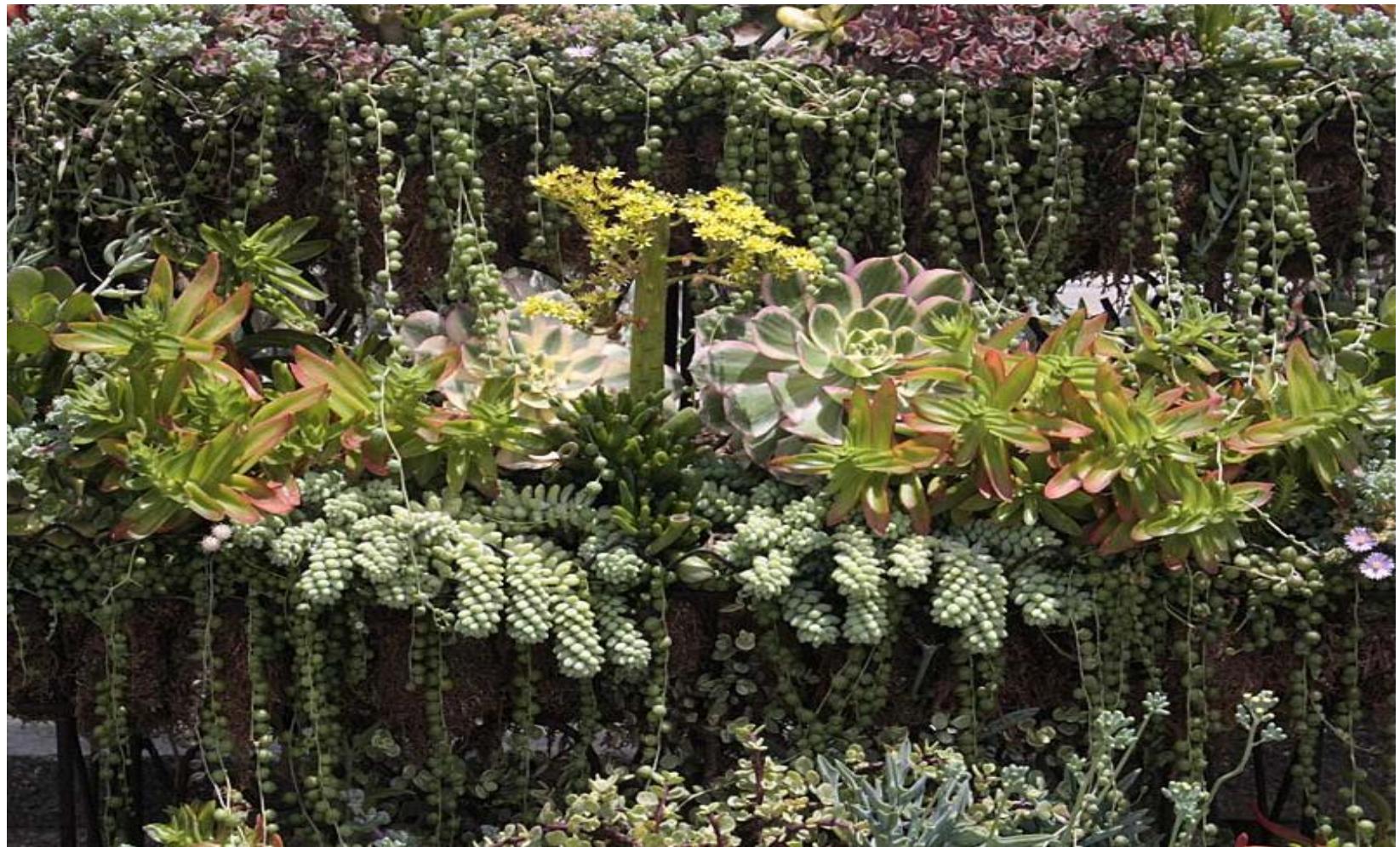




Or a Native Plant Garden

# .... A Mediterranean Inspired Garden





**....A Desert or Succulent  
Garden**

# .... A Zen Garden



# ....A Butterfly And Hummingbird Garden



# Or....A Mandala Garden



# Xeriscape is a Wise Option

Xeriscape may be defined as horticulture that emphasizes water conservation.

If properly executed Xeriscapes can be less costly, but just as beautiful as traditional landscapes.

Variations in plant and landscape color, texture and form are part of a Xeriscape design.

Planting in ‘zones’ for different water usage plants, supplying just what each plant needs is key.

Any design theme can be executed with xeriscape in mind.

# A Water-Wise Garden May Be Achieved by Careful Attention to Layout and Proper Plant Selection

## The Basics

- Choose different zones for different water needs.
- A Xeriscape garden needn't be all Xeric plants.....

You may have plants with different water needs in separate zones

- Choose plants with appropriate sun/shade requirements.

# Even properly selected and managed small areas of turf may be used to unify the landscape



# Underlying Success in Any Garden Including A Xeric One Is Soil

- Addition of Compost to improve soil structure, facilitate aeration, and increases water-holding capacity
- Do soil testing to determine nutrient needs
- Adding organic soil amendments build the soil at the same time providing nutrients to plants



# What Are Your Needs And Desires In The Landscape?

## Observation

- What is currently present on your site – rocks, trees, views
- What affects your landscape – wind, sun, water, shade/trees, topography, neighbors
- What can your site support – avoid expensive mistakes
- How much time do you have to maintain the landscape
  - **Do you want to play on the weekends or spend the time in your garden**

# Site Analysis and Hardscaping

- Think about:
  - Paths / walkways
  - Decks and patios
  - Fences
  - Terraces and walls to compliment the natural setting of the land
  - Fountains and water features
  - Driveways
    - Keep good views, screen out bad
  - Noise barriers needed?



# Considering Climate

- Don't fight the climate
- Notice wind, sun, shade patterns
- Think trees.....
  - deciduous trees allow summer shade and winter light
- Choose plants carefully regarding sun/shade requirements
  - Vegetable gardens generally prefer full sun
  - Outdoor living spaces may be better suited to a shady spot

# Remember sun, shade and views from inside the house



# Designate Use Areas

- Private Outdoor Living Area
- Public Area (seen when entering property)
- Vegetable Garden
- Orchard
- Play area for children and / or pets
- Service Area (out of site from outdoor living area)
  - Storage
  - Garden tools
  - Composting
  - Propane tanks / garbage cans
  - Clothes line

# **Will This Be a Theme Garden/Landscape or Do You Have a Particular Style All Your Own?**

- Now's the time to dream
- Look at lots of different design ideas
  - Internet (Google Images, Pinterest)
  - Garden Books
  - local nursery, plant catalogs
  - Photos and magazine clippings
- This Step can save you a lot of headaches and money.

# **Design Step #1**

## **For Water Wise Garden**

- Use graph paper and make map to scale. May also use available software
  - Include
    - North Point
    - Undesirable and desirable features
    - Views
    - House, Garage, Other buildings
    - Trees, Rock Outcroppings
    - Existing Walls, Driveways, Paths
    - Contour of Land
    - Direction of Surface Flow of Water
    - Sun / Shade Pattern

# **Design Step #2**

## **Designate the Use Areas**

- May use tracing paper to make layers over existing site
- Determine if each area is functional in relation to house
  - Is clothes line easily accessed from laundry room?
  - Are views from house as intended?
- Fit use areas together with traffic flow
  - Are the driveways, walkways and parking areas easily accessible to house?
  - Does it flow/work?
- Are service areas not in view of outdoor living space or windows from inside?
- Locate septic tank/lines and easements

# **Design Step #3**

## **Finally We Get To The Plants!!!**

- Draw to Scale
- Susan will be giving you extensive plant lists that are appropriate for this area
- Well chosen plants are a must for water-wise and deer resistant landscaping
- Select with these characteristics in mind:
  - Form
  - Color
  - Texture
  - Seasonality (time in bloom)
  - Overall aesthetic value
- Select plants or groups of plants to meet the specifications of your plan and design

- Pay attention to sun/shade requirements and zone 7 or lower (for our area)
- Choose with disease and pest resistance in mind
- Indicate where plant masses are needed for separating areas, providing shade, windbreaks and focal points
- Remember to plan for mature size of plants, trees, shrubs
- Think “unifying”.....
  - Group or arrange different parts of the design to appear as a single element
  - White or gray plants or grasses can be ‘unifiers’
  - Landscapes with too many ideas expressed in a limited area lack unity
  - Don’t confuse repetition with monotony. Like in music it creates rhythm and order

# Accents

**Without accent a design may be dull or static**

- Various parts lead the eye toward the focal point
- Accents may be garden art, a plant specimen such as a showy tree, or a water feature
- Boulders can feature in a focal point
- Use islands for intensely managed plantings (higher water usage plantings)
- Garden lights can highlight a focal point
- Accents may be hidden in niches

# Irrigation Design

- Doesn't need to be complicated
  - Drip irrigation supplies available from many sources
    - Ace Hardware, Lowes, Home Depot, OSH
    - Peaceful Valley Farm Supply (on-line)
    - And many other places
- Create different zones for different water needs
  - Run separate water lines to the different zones with drip emitters specific to the different water needs of each plant or grouping of plants
- No plant is drought resistant until it becomes established in the site
  - All plants require a steady supply of moisture when first planted
  - Once a landscape plant is established and has a deep root system, it requires less water

# Deer Resistant and Volatile Plants

- There is no such thing as a newly planted Deer Resistant Plant!
- Plants take time to produce the volatile oils that repel deer
- Plan for fencing or spraying deer repellent until plants are established
- Don't plant highly volatile plants next to structures. The same oils that repel deer may be very susceptible to catching fire (volatile, get it!)

# Conclusion

- Observe
- Plan
- Design
- Implement infrastructure and hardscaping
- Soil Preparation
- Irrigation installation
- Plant
  - Best time to plant trees, shrubs and other landscape plants in a dry year?
    - Fall planting takes advantage of seasonal precipitation and allows plants to establish root systems before heat of summer.

# Happy Planning!

