

Pipeline FAQ 6/14/10

- I need a designer to help me figure out what to do instead of grass. I don't have a big budget. Who should I call?

Please see the list of designers at <http://thegarden.org/siteDocs/resources/AskTheExperts.pdf>

- I need someone to come look at my sprinkler system and tell me how to fix it so it doesn't use as much water

Please see the list of Certified Water Managers at <http://www.clca.us/water/index.html>. Or, visit your local irrigation store (Ewing, Hydroscape, Grangetto's, etc.) and ask for a recommendation.

- I need a groundcover to plant on my slope. I tore out the iceplant and want to put something low water there. What should I plant?

A slope is simply a garden at an angle. You can plant groundcover, or you can plant a landscape of trees, shrubs, and perennials that are all low water and more beautiful than a monoculture of low growing plants. Take a lesson from our native hillsides; they are covered in plants of differing heights, all of which survive on rainfall.

To get started on selecting plants, please see the Nifty Fifty list at http://thegarden.org/siteDocs/resources/Nifty50_2009_illustrated.pdf

- Where can I go to see a low water garden?

The Water Conservation Garden is the best place to see examples of low water gardens. Several of the local water agencies also have small demonstration gardens, so contact your local agency. San Diego County Water Authority has a fabulous garden that has good lessons for homeowners as well. It is at 4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA. Be sure to go inside and ask for a map of the garden and the plant list.

- My HOA had a water audit and now we need to upgrade our irrigation system sprinklers. Who do you recommend?

Please see the list of Certified Water Managers at <http://www.clca.us/water/index.html>. Or, visit your local irrigation store (Ewing, Hydroscape, Grangetto's, etc.) and ask for a recommendation.

- What kind of low water trees can I put into the narrow space between my neighbor's driveway and mine OR in the parking strip between the sidewalk and the street?

There are several small trees or large shrubs that can be shaped to work in this kind of situation. The best choice depends on a number of factors, including how large the space is. Some choices to consider: Crape myrtle, chaste tree, desert willow (*Chilopsis*

linearis), the smaller melaleucas, palo verde 'Desert Museum,' smoke tree (*Cotinus coggygria*).

- Where can I purchase low water plants in my area?

Please visit the list at <http://thegarden.org/siteDocs/resources/Water-Smart-Nursery-List.pdf>

- How often should I water my garden?

How often to water varies from one garden to the next, even from one area of your garden to another. It all depends on the kinds of plants, the type of irrigation system, how well the irrigation system works, and the climate of your garden. It also varies from one season to another (plants need far more water in summer, for example, than in winter) To determine how often your garden needs water, please see: [Save water in your garden with my "Canary Test"](#)

- Can I use dishwater on my plants?

Yes, absolutely, as long as you don't add bleach or other toxic substance to the dishwater. Dishwater is best used on ornamental plants, not on edibles. Its probably best to use clean water every so often to avoid any kind of soapy buildup on the plants.