

## Drought Tolerant Plantings



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It all starts with soil and site.  
Make the design conform to the site, not  
the site to the design.



## Plants have many strategies to fight drought.

- Geophytes - bulbs
- Annuals
- Thick, small or leathery leaves- sclerophyllous
- Leaves that tilt vertically to the sun
- Seasonal dimorphism (leaf drop)
- Reduced leaf size in summer season.
- Gray or hairy leaves, pleated stems (cactus)
- Resinous leaves
- Tap roots and extensive fibrous roots extensive
- Succulents and CAM respiration.

## The California-style border



We can influence climate.  
Urban areas are between 4 to 17 degrees  
warmer than surrounding rural areas



Right Plant, right place



Soil organic matter (Compost) is key in aiding plants ability to withstand drought.



Mulch has many benefits and can achieve the same results as incorporating compost over time.



Use biologically rich mulches. No chips, no gorilla hair!

## Quality plants, planted correctly are drought resistant plants



Many fruit trees and young trees need painting to protect from sunburn. Drought conditions exacerbate this propensity.





Leaves are nature's way of  
mulching and fertilizing



Plant from small sizes,  
plant in fall.



## Oaks from acorns



Inappropriate companions.  
Hydrozoning important



## Crape myrtles and *Stipa tenuissima*



Appropriate companions

## May





# July



## From lawn to garden



## UC Berkeley Botanical Garden South African Hill- and more



## Mediterranean garden



## Mediterranean Garden





## Mulberry garden before



## Mulberry garden after





## Pool houses and native plants



Native grasses



Thanks!