Making Water Wise Changes

... when you have little change to spare

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Ground We’ll Cover

- Why be Water Wise
- Wise Use of ALL Sources of Water
- Soil Matters
- Edible Landscapes
- Converting Sod to Native Grass
- Pruning & Mowing
- Planning & Managing Projects
Why be Water Wise

Water Supply & Demand

Roughly 50% of total consumption is outside home

30% reduction thru sustainable landscape practices

Variety - More color, form & texture options

Drought tolerant

Property value
Wise Use of ALL Sources of Water
An Efficient Irrigation System

- Often 40% (or more) Excess Water is Applied
- Check, Clean, Adjust & Repair Sprinkler Heads
- Irrigation Controller - Initial Setting & Enviro Adjustments
- Comprehensive Evaluation - Pressure, Leaks, Distribution, Uniformity
Wise Use of ALL Sources of Water

Rain Barrels
- It's Legal (two 55 gal barrels)
- Best Water on Planet!
- Cost Effective & Eco-Wise Option
- Mitigate Erosion Downstream
- Purchasing, Installing & Screening
Wise Use of ALL Sources of Water

Earth Shaping

- Swales - direct flow perpendicular to grade
- Check Dams - slow flow, prevent rushing water
- Catchment Basins - stop and sink flow where appropriate
Soil Matters

Get to Know Your Soil

Soil Structure – Mason Jar Test
Sand, Silt, Clay, and Organic Matter
Compaction
Moisture Retention

What’s Your Soil’s Story?
Soil Matters
Building Great Soil – Lasagna Gardening

- Scrape Down Grade – make space for material
- Layer Organic Matter & Soil Amendment – over existing soil
- Keep Moist – accelerate break-down
- Add Composting Worms – speed up process – regular wigglers vs earthworms
Soil Matters

Bringing Your Soil Back to Life

Compost, Compost Tea, Manure
- Re-introduce Life
  Lasagna Garden, Mulch, Mulch, Mulch, Till in Compost & Aerate
  Start Building
  Compaction, Chemical Applications & Drought
  Stop Damaging

-
Soil Matters

Actively Aerated Compost Tea - AACT

Highly Concentrated Brew - Beneficial bacteria, fungi and trace minerals

Brewed as Follows -

Dechlorinated Water

Add Microbiology (manure, compost, worm castings)

Add Kelp Meal & Molasses for Bacteria and Fungi.

Aerate for 12-24 Hours and Use

Spray on Leaves, Pour on Soil &/or Dilute w/Dechlorinated Water
Soil Matters
The Real Scoop on Fertilizing

- Fertility Naturally Built by Microbiology – Who Fertilizes an Old Growth Forest?
- Difference Between Natural & Manmade Landscapes – Landscape Fabric, Rock mulch, Plant Debris, Water Flow
- Feed the Microbiology that Feeds Your Plants – Natural Mulch, Chop n’Drop
- Do fertilize, AND BUILD SOIL Fertility
Edible Landscapes
A Fresh Approach

- Not Limited to Vegetable Garden Anymore
- Contributes to All Seven Elements of Art Form
- Rewards Better than Bluegrass!
Edible Landscapes –
Veggie Gardens

- Start Small & Leafy
- Tomatoes and Peppers are Toughest
- Can be Raised Beds for Ease of Caring & Access
Edible Landscapes - Protection from Nature Itself

Season Extenders  Frost Protection  Hail Protection  Animal Protection
Edible Landscapes - Pollinators

Essential for Food Production!
Worldwide Bee Shortage
Neonics and Glyphosate Part of Problem
Converting Sod to Native Grass – Overview of Steps

- Selecting Area - Irrigation Considerations
- Selecting Grass Variety
- Preparing the Ground
- Spreading the Seed
- Irrigation - Establishment Period - "Follow the Root"
- Ongoing Irrigation & Maintenance
Converting Sod to Native Grass -
Before & After Example – Sheep Fescue
Planting, Pruning & Mowing

- Remove the rootball and wire from the tree.
- Backfill with amended soil.
- Place the tree ball on undisturbed soil.
- Check for proper level in rootball.
- Check for proper placement and height.
Planting, Pruning & Mowing – When & How Much
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