

4th Annual Santa Cruz County Fair Water-wise Garden Contest

The Santa Cruz County Water Awareness Committee, a regional coalition of Santa Cruz County Water Agencies will host its fourth annual Water-wise Landscape Design Contest as part of the 2010 Santa Cruz County Fair's garden section contest in the floriculture building. The Water Awareness Committee, in partnership with local ecological landscapers including certified Green Gardeners, will be seeking out garden section entries that use water-wise landscaping concepts in their designs. Judges will be looking for appropriate grouping of plants with similar water needs (hydrozoning), the use of native and drought tolerant plants, drainage management techniques, minimization of lawn, use of mulching material, demonstration of efficient irrigation technology such as drip irrigation and weather-based irrigation controllers, written notes on their legend about water conservation concepts used, and overall design. The contest aims to promote water-wise landscape design in Santa Cruz County that reduces water use while providing examples of water-wise gardens. Visit www.watersavingtips.org for specific judging criteria.

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