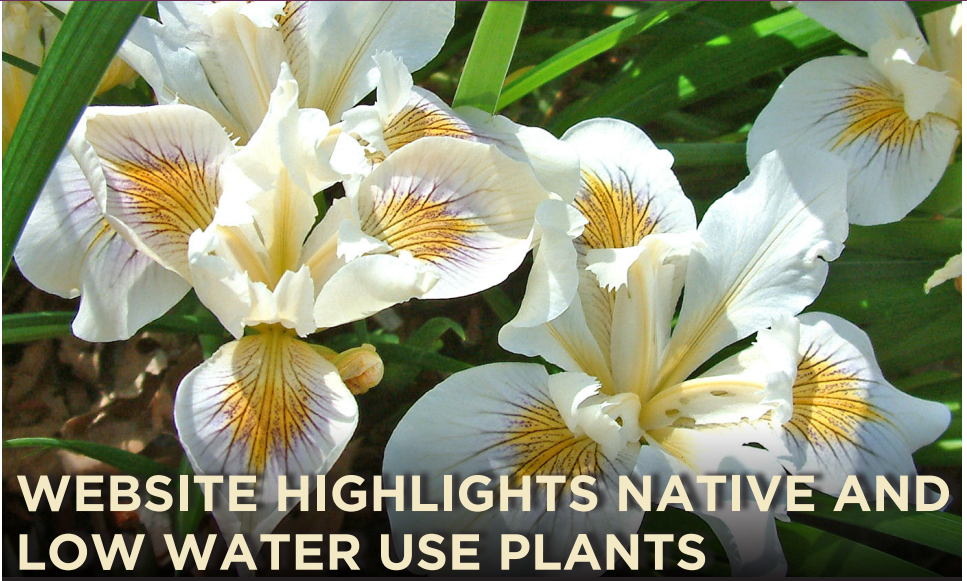


# WATER-SMART GARDENING



A considerable amount of water savings can be achieved through landscape changes.

If you've let your lawn turn brown consider replanting this fall with water-wise plants. There is a useful website called Water-Smart Gardening in Santa Cruz County ([www.santacruz.watersavingplants.com](http://www.santacruz.watersavingplants.com)) that can help inspire your garden redesign or replanting with information about plants, watering, and resources that fit the Santa Cruz County environment.

This mobile-friendly website has several key features:

1. **“Plants” keyword search:** Use this tool to get information about your favorite plants by searching the specific plants' names. For example, you can type 'salvia' in the search box in the top menu and get a listing of all the salvias on the site.
2. **Helpful Plant Lists:** There are 30 popular plant lists including deer tolerant plants, lawn substitutes, California natives, low water perennials, erosion control, and other useful categories.
3. **Guided Search:** The guided search (under the “plants” menu) asks a series of questions about your desired plant to focus your list. The questions include plant type, height, color, bloom season, sun exposure, and soil type. At the end of the questions you'll be provided with a focused photo list of plants that meet your garden's needs. Clicking on each photo reveals the plant's details including water needs. Note: plants that are California Natives are denoted with a California poppy icon over its photo.
4. **My List:** Use this tool to add your favorite plants and gardens to a saved list as you search for them. You can print out the list and take it to a nursery, share it on social media, or email it to your gardener or landscaper.
5. **Resources:** In this section you'll find information on how to design and install a water-wise garden, irrigation methods, and equipment that will help you to water your landscape more efficiently, as well as suggestions on how to easily and effectively maintain your new garden.
6. **Watering Guide:** The watering guide has tips and information on what time to water, how much you should water during a particular time of year, and information on watering devices, irrigation challenges, and water schedules.

The website also features “Garden Tours” and “Garden Gallery” photos that show plant ‘tags’ over the photo to identify the plants in the garden. You can hover over or click on the plant tag to get more information and add it to your customized list. Give it a try and get inspired at [www.santacruz.watersavingplants.com](http://www.santacruz.watersavingplants.com).

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