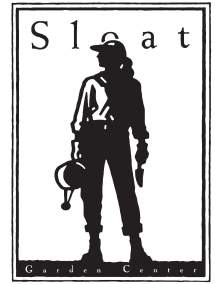


# LOW MAINTENANCE PLANTS



It seems there's never enough time to get everything done that we'd like to get done. Between work, school, growing children and changing interests, our gardens may not be receiving the resources we once gave them. Choosing low maintenance plants for the garden will minimize the time required for upkeep and maximize the time you have to enjoy it. Some upfront investment in site preparation will further save you time.

Prepare your soil! Good garden soil drains well yet holds enough moisture so that plants are not water stressed. The roots are able to expand into the surrounding soil and establish themselves more quickly. Healthier soil means less diseases, pests or plant death.

Install an irrigation system, whether it be drip, sprinkler or a combination of both. Consider putting your system on a timer. The Urban Farmer (Mill Valley and San Francisco) is an excellent resource for water conservation, innovative products, as well as good advice.

Plant and space trees, shrubs and perennials to allow them room to grow and prevent overcrowding. It is common practice to plant closer to fill in the space faster, removing some later. If you space plants to allow for their ultimate growth, less time will be spent pruning and shearing later.

Apply mulches around plantings to prevent weeds, conserve moisture and keep roots cool. Minimize the size of lawns, use ground covers or cover crops such as clover when possible. Incorporate more hardscaping such as paths, patios, decking or courtyard.

Choose shrubs that require a minimum of shearing or pruning. Pay attention to the ultimate height and spread. Predetermine how large you want them to become and stay within those bounds. Choose perennials that repeat bloom freely and do not require constant "deadheading". Following is a list of likely candidates:

## SHRUBS

Buxus (Boxwood)	Escallonia	Hebe	Camellia
Nandina (Heavenly Bamboo)	Dodonaea (Hopseed)	Rhododendron	Grevillea
Euonymus	Myrsine	Myrtus	Syringia
Oleander	Strelitzia	Carpet Roses	Rosemary
Viburnum	Podocarpus (Fern Pine)	Correa	Cordyline
Trachelospermum (Star Jasmine)	Sarcococca	Pittosporum t. (Wheeler's Dwarf)	

*(continues on other side)*

# PLANT WATER GROW

## PERENNIALS

Dietes (Fortnight Lily)	Salvia leucantha (Mex. sage)	Dusty Miller	Bergenia
Grasses (Carex, Stipa, Fescue, Pennisetum)	Hemerocallis (Daylily)	Phormium	Erigeron
Tulbaghia (Society Garlic)	Armeria (Sea Pink)	Agapanthus	Limonium
Geranium spp.	Perovskia (Russian sage)	Lantana	Phlomis
Asparagus sprengeri	Hosta	ferns	Cyclamen
Zantedeschia (Calla Lily)	Siberian Iris	Hellebore	Erysimum
Aspidistra (Cast Iron Plant)	Marguerite Daisy	Euryops Daisy	Liriope
	Euphorbia	Yuccas, Sedums and other succulents	

## GROUNDCOVERS

Ophiopogon (Mondo Grass)	Vinca Minor (Periwinkle)	Cotoneaster sp.	Gazania
Myoporum parvifolium	Potentilla neumanniana	Fragaria chiloensis	Ice Plants
Rosemary (Prostrata)	Dymondia	Persicaria capitata	

## LONG BLOOMING ANNUALS

Wax Begonia	Impatiens	Vinca rosea	Cosmos
Pansy and Viola	Marigold	Sweet Allysum	

## VINES

Campsis radicans	Solanum jasminoides	Trachelospermum (Star Jasmine)
Parthenocissus spp.		

## TREES

Olive	Arbutus Marina	Crabapple	Fig
Pistache (Pistacia Chinensis)	Podocarpus (Fern Pine)	Crape Myrtle (Lagerstroemia)	