



Bringing Back the Natives

...continued from page D1

"I propagated 6,000 plants over a one-year period," he said. "Ninety percent of the plants in my front yard meadow I grew myself." All the Ruch Grass of the front lawn came from the propagation of a single plant that was growing in the creek.

At this time of year, the front yard is a lush and charming tapestry of greens and little flowers. Cow parsnips (Hera-

cleum maximum) are about to bloom and are quite dramatic.

"The garden will change over the year; that's what native gardens do," said Sorenson. "In six months we'll cut the grasses back and it will come back next spring. It will keep evolving." Sorenson added that he does not plan to water the garden and just lets it "do its thing."

place her own front lawn with a beautiful native flower display.

"(The Sorenson's) garden is a fine example of the creativity of the people in our region," said Kramer. "Every year I feel blessed to discover new gardens, some of them that have been planted by people who came to the Tour a few years ago." Last year the Tour attracted more than 6,000 visitors; 14,257 garden visits were made on the day of the tour.

According to Kramer, 75 percent of registrants who attended a previous Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour said they changed their gardening practices because of their participation.

Kramer is not surprised by the spread of the native gardens in our region, even if it is not yet considered the standard look. "A four-year study of water use, green waste generation, maintenance hours, and maintenance labor costs between a traditional garden and a California native plant garden was conducted by the city of Santa Monica," she says.

...continued on page D5



**ADVANCE
TREE SERVICE
& Landscaping**
Family owned in Moraga since 1987



Your friendly neighborhood arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

SITE FACTORS

Site factors have significant influence on both the likelihood and consequences of tree failure. When our ISA certified arborist from Advance Tree Service comes to perform a free risk assessment, the site is often first evaluated for targets and consequences of failure. Site factors that can be used to evaluate the likelihood of tree failure impacting the target include the history of previous failures. This includes branch, trunk, root, and soil failure. Wind and other natural winter conditions can be a high risk factor as well. So don't wait until it's too late, Call your local ISA certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping for all your tree needs.

Advance Tree Service

Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.



925-376-6528

advancetree@sbcglobal.net www.advancetree.com

Follow us on Twitter (*advancetree*) and like us on Face Book
(*ADVANCETREESERVICEANDLANDSCAPINGINC.*)



Flowers in Elizabeth O'Shea's garden in Orinda



The Sorenson's front yard

Drainage Systems

- Standing Water Problems Eliminated
- Sump Pump Service, Repairs & Replacement
- Drainage Inspections & Reports
- Retaining Walls
- Grading



visit us on
Facebook



Lic. #512288

925-944-5263



A+ rated

The first and only
Company in the Bay
Area Offering a **5 Year**
No Standing Water Under
the House Guarantee*

*Our 5 year guarantee is offered to qualified clients who follow our repair recommendations completely

drainagepros.com