

# Water Wise Dreams

We can be water wise by implementing these steps:

1. Add organic material to your soil. Compost and mulch improve the water-holding capacity. Mulch cuts down on weeds, holds in moisture and maintains the temperature.
2. Use soaker hoses when possible as they are the most efficient irrigating system delivering water directly to the roots.
3. Prepare to collect rainwater. In Bermuda, all buildings have an underground cistern that collects rain from the limestone roofs. It may be time for Californians to start thinking about cisterns, or like the Aussies, install storage tanks in our crawl spaces. A 1,000-square-foot roof will harvest 625 gallons of water from one inch of rain.
4. Before planting, study your garden. Know where the sun and shade are at all times of the day.
5. Group plants with similar needs together and choose drought tolerant species that are known to thrive in our environs.
6. Maintain, monitor and weed. Be alert for pests.

Instead of drowning in denial, it is time to save our selves with water-wise investments. I'll be your guide on the side to dream with you.



*A sensible suggestion for heat and drought tolerance.*

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*A recirculating fountain adds coolness to hot environs.*



*A pile of mulch is ready to be added to the hugel.*