

# Water-Wise Plants



.... a few good things to know

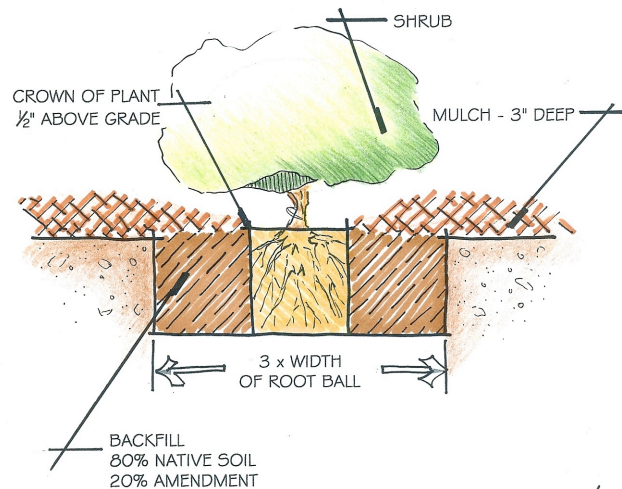
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# Water-Wise Plant Materials – Workshop

My objective in teaching this workshop is to introduce some of the plant materials that do well in the Inland area, but may not be common to the average homeowner. We live in a Mediterranean climate that allows us to grow a wide variety of fascinating plants. 98% of the plants presented in this workshop are low in their water demand, a handful are moderate, none of the plants are considered high in their water usage with one exception – Citrus trees – a full sized mature citrus tree has an average demand of 30 gallons per week, relative to the water demand of a lawn that is still pretty low.

**Planting:** Building in success – what does that look like? The answer in regards to planting is: begin with the best and most vigorous material available. Most of the plant selections in this handout are tough and easy to grow, but knowing a couple of things when purchasing plant material can really help.

1. A plant that is huge for its container is NOT a bargain, it is a plant that was not shifted up to the next size container, more than likely it has a root system that may not be able to support the future growth of the plant. If a plant is very large check to see if it is rooted to the ground below. A few light roots grown into the nursery ground is probably OK but if it requires a really strong tug to get it free, pass on it.
2. This next item is related to root systems that have not been shifted up. Its called 'girdling'. It means the plant was left in a pot too long and the roots of that plant have circled around and around inside the container. Best to avoid this also. You can take a look at the top of the plant where it comes out of the soil, if you see what looks like circling roots, do not buy it.



shrub planting detail

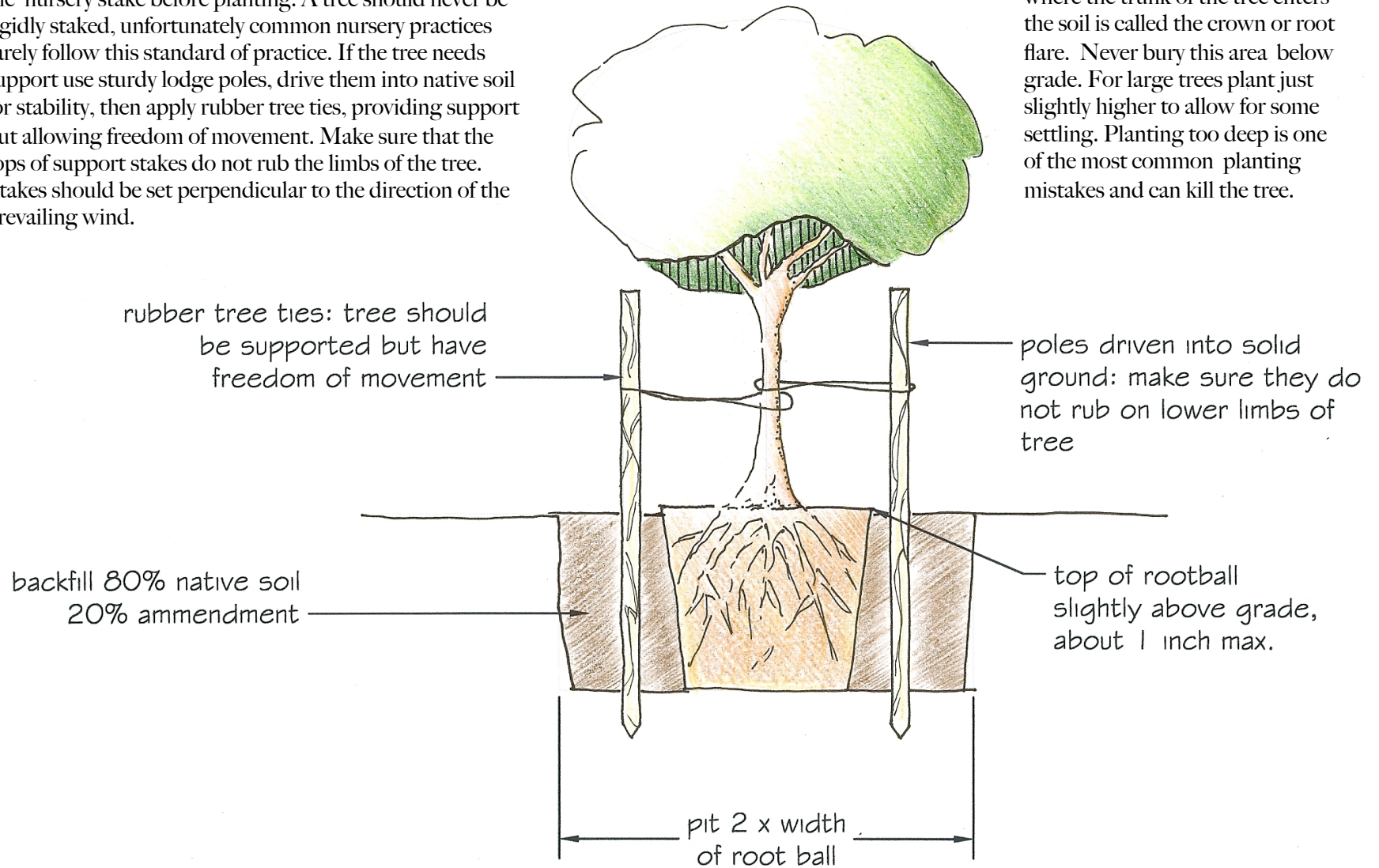
3. A 2 dollar plant in a 10 dollar hole: an old fashioned saying that means plant it right. It is important to not bury any plant deeper than the 'crown' - that is where the trunk or main branch comes out of the soil, the pit should be 3 times the width (I know that sounds like a lot) and the back fill should be only amended with 20% compost, some type of organic humus. For all plants, both trees & shrubs, apply a 3 inch thick layer of medium grind wood mulch over the entire planting area, but keep the area directly around the trunk or crown clear, a few inches away is fine.



girdled roots –bad news!

**Tree Planting:** Always start with a healthy vigorous specimen. A tree that does not need staking is the best case scenario, but often this is not the case. Always remove the nursery stake before planting. A tree should never be rigidly staked, unfortunately common nursery practices rarely follow this standard of practice. If the tree needs support use sturdy lodge poles, drive them into native soil for stability, then apply rubber tree ties, providing support but allowing freedom of movement. Make sure that the tops of support stakes do not rub the limbs of the tree. Stakes should be set perpendicular to the direction of the prevailing wind.

**Never Plant Too Deep:** The area where the trunk of the tree enters the soil is called the crown or root flare. Never bury this area below grade. For large trees plant just slightly higher to allow for some settling. Planting too deep is one of the most common planting mistakes and can kill the tree.



Tree Planting-Staking Detail

<b>Ground Covers</b>					
<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>HxW</b>	<b>Sun/Shade</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow in Summer	8" H_ 12" O.C.	sun-part shade	L-M	good in any garden, grey foliage, blm=wht(sp/s)
Convolvulus sabtius	Ground Morning Glor	4" x 6'	sun-part shade	L	dk green foliage blm=blue (sp-s)
Cotoneaster dammeri	NCN	8" x 10'	sun	L	1, these low growing varieties for slopes only
Cotoneaster horizontalis	Rock Cotoneaster	3' x 15'	sun	L	1, these low growing varieties for slopes only
Dymondia margatae	NCN	3" x 20"	sun	L	very low & tight good between pavers & stones
Fragaria chiloensis	Beach Strawberry	8" H_12" O.C.	sun-part shade	L-M	2, glossy green, blm=wht(sp-s)
Lantana montevidensis	Trailing Lantana	18" H_3' O.C.	sun	L	1,2, 3, blm=year round: yellow/white/purple
Mahonia repens	Creeping Mahonia	12" x 3'	sun-part shade	L	small scale GC blm=yellow (sp/s) blue berries
Pelargoniums spp - many varieties useful for small scale ground covers - colorful and easy to grow					
P. peltatum	Ivy Geranium	18" x 5'	sun-part shade	M	great color, short lived (5 years) not for large areas
P. tomentosum	Peppermint Geranium	18" x 5'	sun-part shade	M	interesting foliage, fragrance
P. ionidiflorum	NCN	6" x 3'	sun-part shade	L	foliage lacy edge, green, blm=pnk (sp/s)
P. sidoides	NCN	12" x 3'	sun	L	foliage grey, blm=dk purple-red
Osteospermum fruticosum	Freeway Daisy	12" x 4'	sun	L	1, blm=wht/purple year round
Rosemarinus prostratus	Trailing Rosemary	2' x 8'	sun	L	1, large areas & slopes only - 4: attracts bees
Thymus lanuginosus	Wooly Thyme	2"-3" x 3'	sun	L	good small scale GC in hot sun, trailing habit
<b>Dwarf Shrubs under 3 ft</b>					
<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>HxW</b>	<b>Sun/Shade</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Baccharis pilularis	Dwarf Coyote Bush	2' x 8'	sun	L	1, 2, 5, variety 'Pigeon Point' is lower to 2 ft
Callistemon 'Little John'	Dwarf Bottle Brush	2' x 4'	sun	M	1,3,5 blm=red (sp-s)
Cistus skanbergii	Rock Rose	3' x 3'	sun	L	1,3, blm= pale pink (sp)
Cistus 'Sunset'	Rock Rose	2' x 6'	sun	L	1, 3, blm=dk pnk (sp-s)
Convolvulus cneorum	Bush Morning Glory	2' x 3'	sun-part shade	L	good accent shrub, grey foliage, blm=wht (sp-s)
Cuphea hyssopifolia	False Heather	1' x 2'	sun-part shade	M	feathery appearance, pink bloom (sp-s) can freeze
Euonymus j. microphylla	Box-Leaf Euonymus	2' x 1'	sun	L-M	compact green or variegated form, good hedge
Galvezia speciosa	Island Bush Snapdrag	3' x 5'	part shade-shade	L	2, adaptable native blm=red (w-sp)
Grevillea spp.	many species	varies	varies by species	L	large group of Australian Natives worthwhile
Myrtus compacta	Dwarf Myrtle	3' x 3'	sun	L	great for formal hedge 1 ft to 3ft tall
Punica granatum 'Nana'	Dwarf Pomegranate	3' x 6'	sun	L-M	5 deciduous shrub blm=orange (sp-s)
Raphiolepis indica 'Ballerina'	India Hawthorn	2' x 4'	sun-part shade	M	blm=pnk (sp)
Raphiolepis indica 'Pinkie'	India Hawthorn	3' x 3'	sun-part shade	M	blm=pnk (sp)
Salvia chamaedryoides	Germander Sage	2' x 4'	sun	L	2, 3, 5 gray foliage, blm=cobalt blue,
Santolina chamaecyparissus	Lavender Cotton	2' x 3'	sun	L	accent plant gray foliage blm=yellow (sp-s)
Teucrium fruticans 'compacta'	Dwarf Germander	3' x 6'	sun	L	dk green compact shrub 4: attracts bees
key: 1 good on slopes 2: cut back hard annually to maintain vigor and shape 3: valuable as ornamental 4: attracts a lot of bees 5: habitat					

<b>Large Shrubs 4 to 10 ft tall</b>					
<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>HxW</b>	<b>Sun/Shade</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Abelia g. 'Ed Goucher'	NCN	4' x 4'	sun-shade	M	1,3, do <u>not</u> shear allow natural form blm=pink
Alyogyne huegelii	Blue Hibiscus	5' x 8'	sun	L	1,3, blm=blue
Arctostaphylos 'Howard McMinn'	Manzanita	8' x 15'	sun-shade	L	1,3,5 easiest of the Manzanitas for garden
Bougainvillea spp	NCN	varies	sun	L	1,3, large showy plants give plenty of room
Calliandra spp.	Fairy Duster	5' x 6'	sun	L-M	3,5, blm=red/pink (sp-s)
Ceanothus spp.	Calif Lilac	varies	sun-shade	L	beautiful but a challenge in garden best on slopes
Cistus spp	Rock Rose	varies	sun	L	1,3 all good
Coleonema pulchrum	Breath of Heaven	5' x 5'	sun	M	1, 3 very airy appearance blm=pnk (w-sp)
Echium fastuosum	Pride of Madera	5' x 10'	sun	L	1,3 dramatic blue flower spikes in spring
Elaeagnus pungens	Silverberry	10' x 10'	sun	L	1, very tough plant great for slope
Euonymus japonica	NCN	8' x 6'	sun	M-L	colorful foliage accents - must be grown in sun
Grevillea spp.	many species	varies	varies by species	L	large group of Austrailian Natives worthwhile
Ilex vomitoria 'Nana'	Yaupon Holly Dwarf	3'-5' x 6'	sun-shade	L	good for hedge
Lantana hybrids	NCN	varies	sun	L	1,3 great dependable flowering shrubs
Leucophyllum frutescens	Texas Ranger	5' x 5'	sun	L	1, blm=purple-pnk bloom time varies
Nandina domestica	Heavenly Bamboo	5' x 4'	sun	L	many varieties & size: fall color winter berries
Osmanthus fragrans	Sweet Olive	10' x 6'	sun-shade	M	grow for fragrance under a window
Photinia x fraseri	NCN	10' x 10'	sun	M	new growth is red - common plant easy to grow
Pittosporum tobira	Mock Orange	10' x 6'	sun-shade	M-L	great foundation plant - variegated also
Plumbago auriculata	Cape Plumbago	6' x 8'	sun-shade	M-L	1,3 big sprawling, great bloom=wht or blue(sp-s)
Rhaphiolepis indica	India Hawthorn	varies	sun-shade	M	many varieties: all tough-easy blm=pink(sp-s)
Salvia spp - see below:					
(short lived 5 yrs) S. clevelandii	Cleveland Sage	4' x 4'	sun	L	1,2,3,5 native to Corona foothills -blm=blue
(short lived: 5 yrs) S. greggii	Autumn Sage	3'-4' x 3'	sun	L	1,2,3,5 many colors Furmans Red is gorgeous
S. leucantha	Mexican Sage	4' x 6'	sun	L	2,3,5, 'Midnight' solid purple selection pretty
Westringia fruticosa	Coast Rosemary	3-6' x 5-10'	sun	L	1- great on slopes also can be sheared as hedge

<b>Tall Shrubs - Small Trees for Screening</b>					
<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>HxW</b>	<b>Sun/Shade</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Callistemon citrinus	Bottle Brush	10'-15' HxW	sun	L	1,4,5 bottle brush flowers = red typ./ some pink
Citrus - all	Citrus Trees	varies	sun	M-H	edible landscape that serves as a screen
Dodonea viscosa	Purple Hopseed Bush			L	fast growing good screen can be short lived: 10 yrs
Hakea spp.	NCN	10'-20' HxW	sun	L	good screen and barrier plant (leaves are prickly)
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon or Hollywood	8'-15' HxW	sun-shade	L	1,5 great habitat foothill native - red winter berries
Rhus ovata	Sugar Bush	to 20' HxW	sun-shade	L	1,5 habitat foothill native
Xylosma congestum	NCN	12' x 12'	sun-shade	L-M	1, dependable, fast grower, good fresh green color

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<b>Trees - Evergreen</b>					
Acacia stenophylla	Shoestring Acacia	30' x 20'	sun	L	3
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree	typ 15' x 15'	sun	L	3, 5 Dk green foliage attractive bark
Arbutus 'Marina'	NCN	30' x 30'	sun	L	will not tolerate much water, declines rapidly
Callistemon citrinus	Bottle Brush Tree	10' x 10-15'	sun	L	3,4,5
Citrus all	NCN	varies	sun	M-H	ornamental & edible, do not grow in a lawn
Eucalyptus torquata	Coral Gum	15-20'x15'	sun	L	3,5
Juniper s. 'Tolleson's Weeping	NCN	20' x 10'	sun	L	pretty weeping habit & blue foliage
Lagunaria patersonii	Primrose Tree	20-50' x 20-30'	sun	L	pink flowers, tough tree
Lophostemon confertus	Brisbane Box	30' x 20'	sun	L	pretty brown-orange bark
Melalueca quinquenervia	Cajaput Tree	20-30'x15'	sun	L	3,5 resists wind, good planted in groups
Melaleuca nesophila	Pink Melaleuca	15'x15'	sun	L	can be trained with pruning into interesting form
Olea europaea	Olive Tree	25' x25'	sun	L	train early for best shape - fruitless: Swan Hill or Wilson
Pinus species	Pine Trees				
Pinus halepensis	Alleppo Pine	30-60' x 20-40'	sun	L	good in the heat, develops interesting shape
Pinus canariensis	Canary Island Pine	50-80' x 20-35'	sun	L-M	fast, very tall, withstands high winds
Pinus thunbergii	Japanese Black Pine	20' x 10'	sun	M	this is the classic 'bonsai' pine: takes shaping-pruning
Podocarpus gracillior	Fern Pine	20-60' x 10-20'	sun	M	beautiful tree, can be sheared as tall screen hedge
Quercus species					
Q. agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	20-70' x 20-90'	sun	L	our native Oak, beautiful...
Q. suber	Cork Oak	30-60' x 30-60'	sun	L	this is where cork comes from, beautiful tree
<b>Trees - Deciduous</b>					
Brachychiton acerifolius	Flame Tree	60' x 30'	sun	L	red flowers in spring, briefly deciduous
Cercidium 'Desert Museum'	Palo Verde	20' x 20'	sun	L	3,4, fast growth, yellow blooms
Cercis occidentalis	Redbud	10-15' x 10-15'	sun	L	beautiful red-purple bloom in spring - Native
Chilopsis linearis	Desert Willow	15-20' x 10-15'	sun	L	pretty blooms, look for seedless varieties
x Chitalpa taskentensis	NCN	20-30' x 20-30'	sun	L	pretty blooms, creates litter, plant away from patios
Chorisia speciosa	Silk Floss Tree	30-50' x 30-50'	sun	M	showy green thorny bark, big pink flowers
Koelreuteria bipinnata	Chinese Flame Tree	20-40' x 20-40'	sun	M	showy seed pods, salmon color, tough tree
Lagerstroemia indica	Crape Myrtle	10-20' x 8'-20'	sun	M	very ornamental tree, bark flowers and shape
Prunus spp.	Flowering Peach, Plum	10-15' x 10-15'	sun	M	pretty small garden trees, some ornamental & fruit
Platanus racemosa	Calif. Sycamore	30-80' x 20-50'	sun	M	classic california canyon tree, water deeply
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache	30-60' x 30-60'	sun	L-M	fantastic fall color
Prosopis spp.	Mesquite Tree	30' x 30'	sun	L	trees with great form, tough, look for thornless variety
Vitex agnus-castus	Chaste Tree	15-20' x 15-20'	sun	L	heat resistant, cobalt blue flower spikes in summer
<b>Grasses</b>					
Pennisetum spp	Fountain Grasses	varies	sun	L	pretty ornamental grasses, deciduous, some re-seed
Miscanthus spp	Maiden Grasses	varies	sun-shade	L	beautiful, many varieties, can get large, deciduous
Festuca g. ovina	Blue Fescue	1' x1'	sun	L	pretty edging plant, blue-grn color
Sesleria cearulea	Blue Moor Grass	1' x 1'	sun-shade	M	pretty small grass, well behaved, good in mass
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