

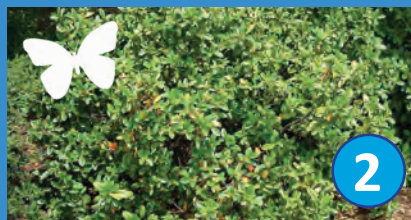
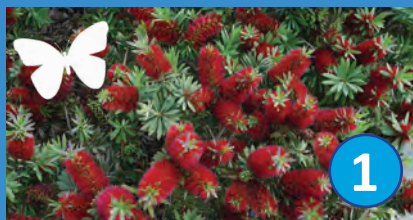


© Michael Todoran, 2020

Easy outdoor living

Stout Design Build, Inc.

Natural Form Winners



1 Callistemon 'Little John'
Dwarf Bottlebrush

2 Frangula (rhamnus) californica
'Eve Case'
Eve Case Coffeeberry

3 Salvia 'Bee's Bliss'
Bee's Bliss Sage

4 Ceanothus (various)
California Lilac

5 Heuchera 'Santa Ana Cardinal'
Santa Ana Coral Bells

Easy Outdoor Living landscapes compliment many different architectural styles. These gardens predominantly feature large groupings of mostly local native plants surrounded by deep organic wood chip mulch.

Selecting plants for their natural forms, and choosing evergreen and variegated plants as the garden backbone helps to make maintenance an annual or semi-annual event rather than a weekly repetitive chore. Add in naturally long flowering perennial shrubs in large swaths for a sharper look.

Wide, permeable pathways make it easy to walk through the garden and spot weeds or plants that need special care.



© Pamela Berntner, 2020

Evergreen Options



1 *Rhaphiolepis indica*
India Hawthorn



2 *Rhus ovata*
Sugar Bush



3 *Westringia fruticosa*
'Morning Light'
Coast Rosemary

Select evergreen shrubs (shrubs that don't lose their leaves) to provide year-round interest and create a neutral backdrop for flowering perennials. Be sure to correctly space these plants for fire safety, especially on hillsides (see p. 57).



Urban Water Group, Inc.

Reduce your ongoing maintenance and keep your garden "under control" by leaving enough space between plants and selecting plants for their foliage color, leaf shape, or natural form. Planting smaller plants and giving them room to grow makes for healthier roots, so you don't need to add fertilizers and other inputs. Do not prune these plants into boxes or balls; poor pruning encourages weak growth and short life. Fill the space between plants with small composted woodchip mulch, and you are good to go!

Long Flowering Plants



1 *Grevillea rosemarinifolia*
Rosemary Grevillea



2 *Grewia occidentalis*
Lavender Starflower



3 *Sphaeralcea ambigua*
Desert Mallow

Choose long flowering plants and shrubs to reduce deadheading duty and keep the garden looking tidy with just one or two big clean ups a year.

Tips For Easy Outdoor Living Style Gardens

1. Mulch builds healthy living soil, which is the key to improving soil moisture retention and boosting the immune system of plants so they can make it through a long, dry period without additional attention (see p. 63).

2. Plants With Natural Forms do not require staking or clipping to maintain their shape. Maintenance is reduced because you don't have to spend time shaping them.

3. Native Drought Adapted Plants are acclimated to various Mediterranean climates and do not require special attention or maintenance (see p. 30).

4. Big Beds and Drifts of the same kind of plant are easier to maintain than a jumble of many different kinds of plants in small spaces. Remember to plant in odd numbered multiples for a more natural effect.

5. Natural Meadow and Lawn is significantly easier to maintain than a conventional turf lawn because it requires less water and no additional inputs if maintained organically. Natural Lawn is cut less frequently, and the grass clippings are best left on the lawn itself as organic matter to build the soil (see p. 13).

6. Low Growing Groundcovers fill gaps and keep weeds in check, thus reducing maintenance. Groundcovers also shade the surface of the soil, helping keep the moisture in.

7. Wide Permeable Paths rather than narrow winding walkways are easier for bringing wheelbarrows and trash bins for those infrequent maintenance days.

8. Avoid Rambling Climbers that grow fast and large and require constant attention to keep in bounds.

9. Weather-Based Irrigation Control is essential for managing irrigation efficiently even when you're only using the garden a few days a week (see p. 65).

Stout Design Build, Inc.

