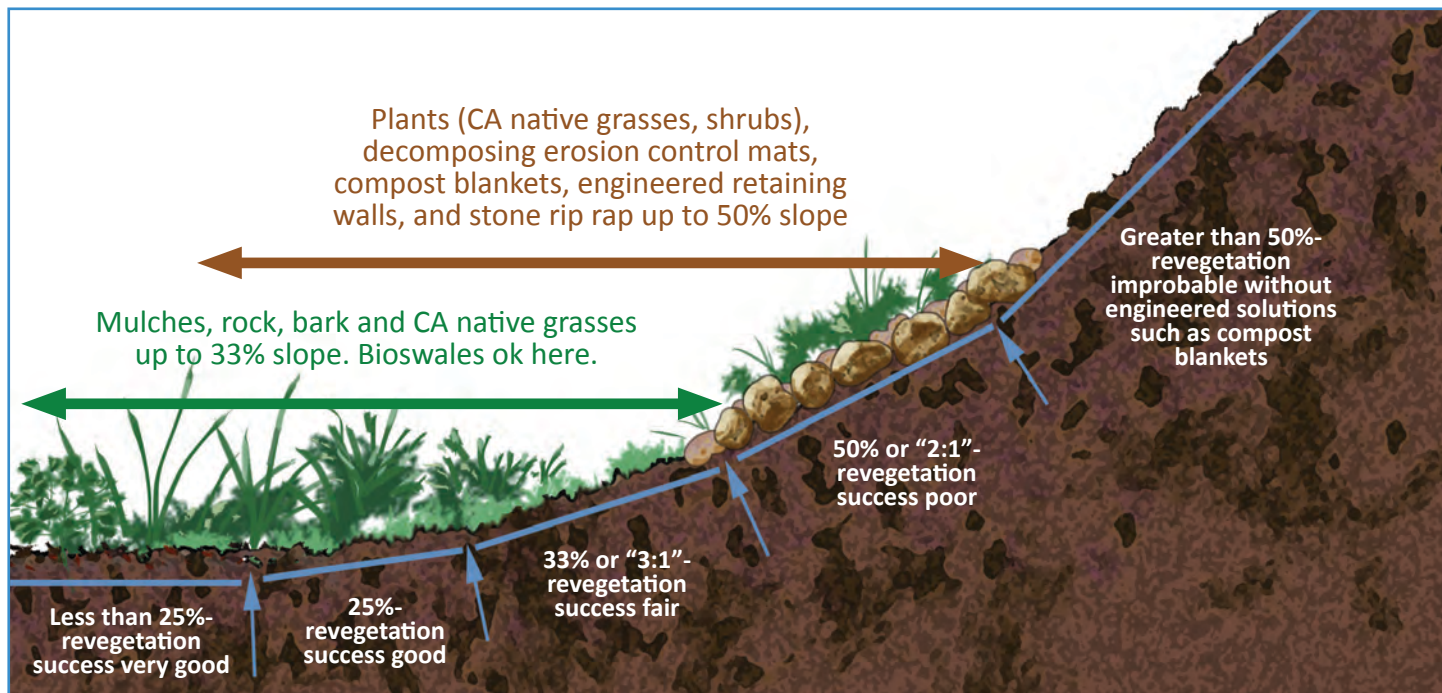


# Slopes and Hillside are special



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## Hardy Hillside Holders



Benefits  
Pollinators



1 *Simmondsia chinensis*  
*Jojoba, Goatnut*

2 *Ceanothus* 'Yankee Point'  
*California Lilac*

3 *Isomeris arborea*  
*Bladderpod*

4 *Dalea frutescens*  
*Black Dalea*

5 *Baccharis pilularis*  
*'Pigeon Point'*  
*Coyote Bush*

## Plan for Stabilization

Working on a slope or hillside should be a collaborative process in which you should seek the advice of a licensed civil engineer, landscape architect, or other professional before grading and capturing rainwater on existing hillsides. Get to know your soil type (see p. 22) and slope percentage (see p. 43) before moving forward with any disturbance.

Whenever possible, do not disturb canyon hillsides. Select low water use plants, trees, deep-rooted native plant species, and climate-appropriate plants with strong root structures for disturbed or built slopes and hillsides, as these root systems can help hold soil together.

If your slope is gentle, 3:1 or less (33% grade) coarse compost and mulch can be applied directly to hillside and slope surfaces, providing surface protection from the force of falling rain and shading exposed soils. With occasional irrigation, mulch will "knit" together.

Compost blankets are a kind of erosion control mat applied to the soil surface to protect and preserve it, and can be used either alone or with other organic engineered material with biodegradable grids for stabilization that will degrade into soil within a year or two. Compost mats allow water to penetrate through to underlying soils while retaining loose soil and debris and preventing erosion. You can plant right through them or use pre-seeded products. Compost blankets can be found at specialized landscape products distributors.

Consider working with an irrigation design professional to design and install your irrigation system. Runoff, erosion and efficient deep watering are important issues to keep in mind always, but especially on hillsides. Contouring across the slope can help slow, spread and sink rainwater into the planted areas and goes a long way toward reducing or eliminating any potential runoff from irrigation during dry months (see p. 43).