



# Get Rid of Your Lawn Campaign

- The single most irrigated crop in the United States is lawn.
- Americans collectively spend about \$40 billion a year on lawn seed, sod, and chemicals.
- Recently, a NASA-funded study, which used satellite data collected by the Department of Defense, determined that, including golf courses, lawns in the United States cover nearly fifty thousand square miles — an area roughly the size of New York State.
- The author of the above study calculated that in order to keep all the lawns in the country well irrigated, it would take an astonishing two hundred gallons of water per person, per day. According to a separate estimate by the Environmental Protection Agency, nearly a third of all residential water use in the United States currently goes toward landscaping.

**Have you ever considered getting rid of your lawn?**

## **Drought Resistant Plants:**

- Contra Costa Water District's list of drought resistant plants (we have many of them at MDUUC) – [http://www.ccwater.com/conserves/plants\\_waterwise.asp](http://www.ccwater.com/conserves/plants_waterwise.asp)
- CCWD's free CD which gives advice on watering your garden -- <http://www.ccwater.com/conserves/waterwisecd.asp>
- East Bay Municipal Utility District's book, "Plants and Landscapes for Summer Dry Climates," features more than 650 native Californian and Mediterranean plants suited to the climate and microclimates found throughout much of California and the West. [http://www.ebmud.com/conserving\\_&\\_recycling/plant\\_book/default.htm](http://www.ebmud.com/conserving_&_recycling/plant_book/default.htm)
- Alexander Lindsay Museum has a drought tolerant garden where folks can view many of the plants that are recommended by water companies. It also offers a free class, "Home Composting for Busy People," several times a year. <http://www.wildlife-museum.org/>
- Navlet's Garden Centers have several summer classes on "Drought Tolerant Gardens."

## **Native Californian Plants:**

- The California Native Plant Society has workshops and plants for sale, as well as do most of the local nurseries. <http://www.cnps.org/>
- The Regional Parks Botanic Garden will have its annual Native Plant Sale on April 18, 10–3. It is located in Tilden Park, Berkeley. <http://www.nativeplants.org/>
- The self-guided "Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour" showcases various residential gardens in Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, Moraga, Orinda, Martinez, Pleasanton, and other Bay Area towns and cities. Local nurseries will also feature a Native Plant Sale Extravaganza. Sunday May 3, 10-5 -- <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/index.html>
- Sunset magazine's list, "8 Great Natives," are native plants that do especially well here. The "wild lilac" (ceanothus), comes in small, medium, and large shrub sizes and grows with practically no water once established. It also attracts worker bees. <http://www.sunset.com/garden/earth-friendly/backyard-wildlife-sanctuary-00400000037437/page12.html>