

# 8 Smart Gardening Practices

## *Healthy Gardens, Healthy Homes*

### 1. Landscape for Your Local Environment

- Use appropriate plants
  - Select low-water use plants
  - Use California natives
  - Use climate appropriate plants
- Consider Arboretum All-Stars  
[www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu)



### 2. Reduce Waste and Recycle

- Compost
- Grasscycle
- Prune correctly
- Reduce irrigation and fertilizer use

- Salvage and recycle
- Do not plant invasive plants  
[www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org)



### 3. Nurture the Soil

- Protect soil from compaction
- Add compost
- Use organic mulches
- Fertilize correctly



### 4. Conserve Water

- Mulch
- Minimize turf
- Adjust irrigation seasonally
- Water wisely and slowly
- Group plants with similar water and sun needs
- Prevent urban drool



### 5. Conserve Energy

- Plant trees wisely
- Shade paved areas
- Shade south and west sides
- Shade air conditioners  
[www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com)



### 6. Responsible Pest Control

- Use least toxic methods first
- Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)
- Prevent water runoff
- Mulch



### 7. Support Beneficial Wildlife

- Diverse plantings
- Use California natives
- Provide food, water, shelter and space
- Wildlife garden friendly
- Use least toxic pesticides
- Conserve/restore natural areas



## 8. Grow Food for Yourself and Your Neighborhood

- Plant a fruit tree
- Vegetables can look great
- Great taste
- Variety
- Know what's in your food
- Everyone can grow something that is edible.



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## Four Easy Ways to Get Started with Smart Gardening!

1. **Check your irrigation system**
  - A. Look for broken or out of adjustment heads.
  - B. Set your controller properly for the season.
2. **Use mulch in flower, vegetable and shrub beds**
  - A. Mulch prevents water loss, and keeps weeds down.
  - B. Mulch materials can be bark, ground tree trimmings and fallen leaves.
  - C. Apply 3 inches of mulch.
3. **Use compost to improve soil health and fertility**
  - A. Compost reduces fertilizer needs.
  - B. Improves water use efficiency.
  - C. Incorporate compost when planting or apply to shrubs.
4. **Grasscycle when mowing lawns**
  - A. Grasscycling allows grass clippings and their nutrients to be recycled into the lawn and soil, reducing the need for fertilizers. In addition, there is less waste to the landfill.

*Special thanks to "River-Friendly Landscaping at Home"*

[www.riverfriendly.org](http://www.riverfriendly.org)

# EIGHT SMART GARDENING PRACTICES



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