



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program

UC Master Gardeners of Napa County
**Las Flores Learning
Garden
Garden
Design**



Welcome

LFLG partnership between CON/UCMG started in 2019

UCMG volunteer organization affiliated w/the Univ of Calif.

Main goal to get the home gardener research based gardening information

Reason for the creation of the LFLG as a research based botanical teaching garden.

Currently four gardens: Low-water/low-maintenance, Ca. Native, Pollinator & Succulent/dry garden.

This year new install=Lawn Alternatives.....stay tuned



Before we begin today's Garden Design event.....
Let's talk a little about climate change and soil health

We live in a closed environment. No additional carbon is made or depleted so it's **where** the carbon is stored that's important. Burning fossil fuels and traditional farming methods of tilling and leaving bare soil exposed, releases CO₂ into our atmosphere. On earth, the oceans, soils, and plants draw carbon out of the atmosphere and store it.

Each of us can do our part in reducing the amount of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere by how we manage the soil in our home gardens.

Support and Create Healthy Soil

Your garden soil also draws down and stores carbon from the atmosphere, and at the same time enriches your soil and boosts plant productivity.
How can you encourage more of this action in your garden?

BE THE CHANGE



No Chemicals



Increase
Organic Matter



Keep Ground
Covered



Maximize
Living Roots



Increase Plant
Diversity



Avoid Soil
Disturbance



Respect Water
Usage



Use Green
Energy

Photo-KissTheGround

Practice our Healthy Climate and Soil Tips:

1. Use organic amendments, not chemicals, if needed.
2. Add 1" - 2" of compost on top of your soil which will feed your plants naturally by increasing the organic matter as it filters down into the soil.
3. Keep soil covered year-round with a diversity of plants and plant cover crops that add nutrients to the soil when you aren't growing food crops. Where you don't want plants growing, cover the soil with 3"-4" of mulch which will suppress weeds, keep plant roots cool and help hold in moisture.
4. Maximize living roots and increase plant diversity
5. NO tilling or double digging, unless absolutely necessary as a last resort! Disturbing the soil releases carbon into the atmosphere and damages the amazing network of living roots, fungi, bacteria and more that has formed in your soil to feed your plants. Maximize living roots!
6. Save water with drip irrigation instead of sprayers.
7. Reduce your energy usage by using electric tools, instead of gas-powered tools.

If you practice these tips in your garden, you will see a difference in the health of your plants, and you'll do your part to help reduce climate change.

TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- **Welcome**
- **The PROCESS**
- **Creating a garden design**
- **Group discussion**
- **Closing**



-Now for today's presentation on Garden Design.

-The thought of redoing an existing landscape and/or designing an area in your landscape that is currently a blank slate can seem like an overwhelming task. It's all about planning and research coupled with the breaking down of the entire project into smaller manageable steps. The small step concept will also help to make the garden design/redo experience a fun process with pleasant anticipatory thoughts instead of possible sweaty palms and sleepless nights.

-Our goal is for you to leave today informed and feeling empowered and able to plan your own garden design/installation.

As an example that this process works I wanted to share with you my recent garden redo adventure.

ONE GARDEN REDO ADVENTURE



I went from this.....

ONE GARDEN REDO ADVENTURE



To this.....
Using the PROCESS.....It can be done
And if I can do it so can you!

THE PROCESS

- Your gardening experience
- Purpose of the garden & type of garden desired
- Scope of project (wish list)
- Who will be doing the work?
- When desired start/completion time of the project?
- Cost & other considerations
- Draw out existing landscape
- Add important notations
- Additional Considerations
- Locate research based gardening info to facilitate the proposed project



Here is that PROCESS.....

As with most things breaking it down into smaller steps will take away some of the 'oh my goodness' fear factor

So let's do that.....

THE PROCESS

- **Your gardening experience**



First consider **Your Garden experience:**

This is YOUR garden. There is no finger pointing or judgment here. If you truly love getting out in the soil and putting on a regular basis, plan your design accordingly.

THE PROCESS

- **Your gardening experience**



If your idea of gardening is to just experience the view while sitting in a chair with a cool drink in hand, then create your garden oasis with that in mind.

Do you live in a fire area and therefore must consider firewise landscaping.

Are there physical considerations that you or your family have that need to be planned for.

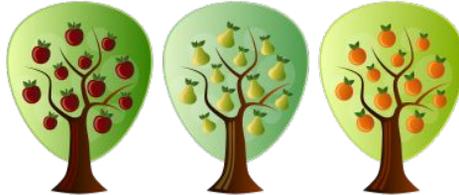
All of these and more must be pondered when making any landscape design plan.

Define those needs and the design concept will easily follow.

THE PROCESS

• Purpose/type of Garden

- Landscape
- Orchard
- Vegetable
- Flowers
- All of above



Open clipart

Purpose of the garden & type of garden desired:

You have decided how your garden will fit into your lifestyle and area so you can start narrowing down the plans; plants and hardscape options. Gather ideas and do research on the upkeep requirements of the plant and hardscape options that fit into your 'lifestyle' criteria.

Creating the initial plan or design concept can be a very enjoyable experience. The process is only limited by your imagination. Peruse the internet, go to the library and check out landscape design books, tour local public gardens, talk to fellow gardeners, walk the neighborhood, all are ways to find inspiration and ideas.

THE PROCESS

- **Who will be doing the work?**

Professional
or you or a
combination
of both



Who will be doing the work?

Will you be doing all the landscape remodel work, will you hire a professional or divide the different segments between you and a professional?

For example a professional could be hired to remove the existing landscape and you could take it from there.

That is exactly what I did.

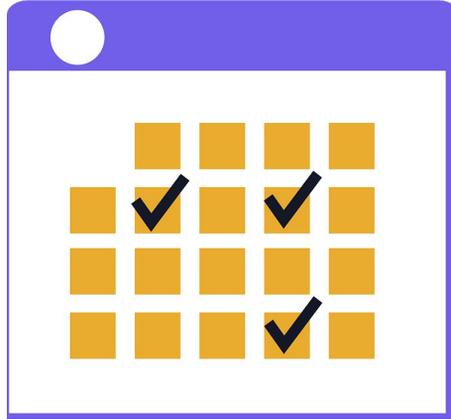
Doing the work yourself will require fitting each step into your future schedules.

Choosing a landscape design professional requires some research, asking around for recommendations and checking on the internet.

Then interviewing the different professionals to make a final selection. So make sure to include these processes into your overall timeline.

THE PROCESS

- **When desired start/completion time of the project?**



creazilla

When is the desired start/completion time of the project?

Again, this is your project and your plan.

If you want to do the landscape transformation in stages, all at once or somewhere inbetween, that is up to you.

But, you must plan accordingly so, to the best of your ability, the project timeline expectations are fulfilled.

Be aware that life happens and delays are often unavoidable.

Also, if you use a landscape professional, you might have to conform to their schedule.



Cost and other considerations

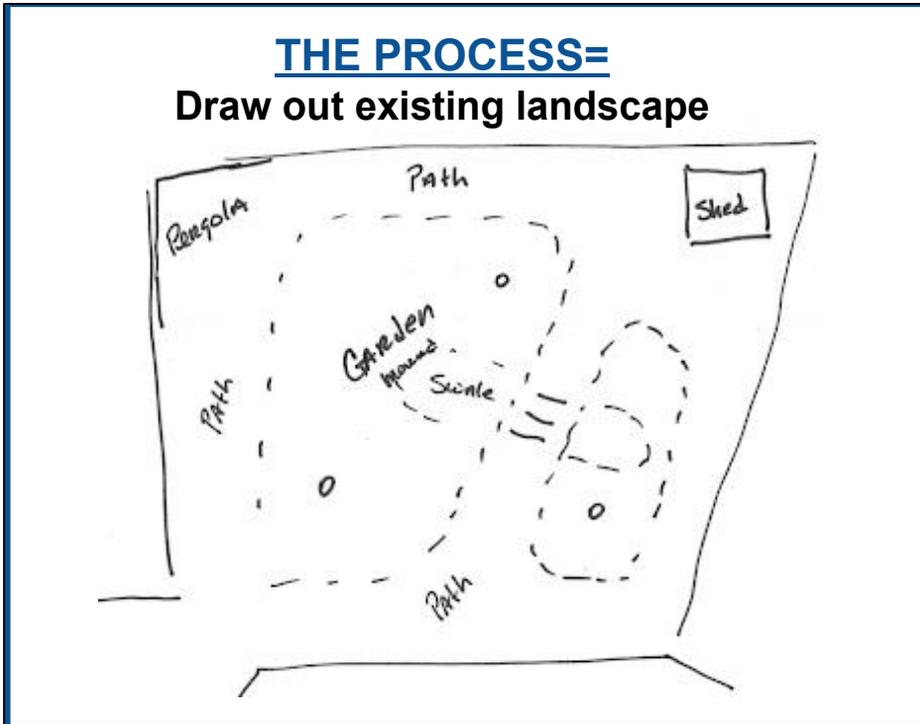
What will be your personal budget for this project? Do some research and check on pricing of the various materials and plants desired. Create a list or spreadsheet that contains the information gathered. This will put everything in one place to better view the proposed overall project expenses. If you intend to use a professional for all or some of the project, start the interviewing process to get an estimated cost of professional labor to add to the list. This will also allow you to make a decision about the use of that professional and how much or how little your budget will allow. Investigate your area/neighborhood for the existence of any HMOs or CCRs that need to be followed. Check with the City, County and state to see if your project will require any permitting or if there are any regulations to be followed.

Start small. Planting smaller plants will help to control the budget with the added benefit of experiencing the joy of watching them grow and mature in their new locations.

Be prepared for cost overruns. Best laid plans and all that. Life happens. So, give yourself a cushion.

THE PROCESS=

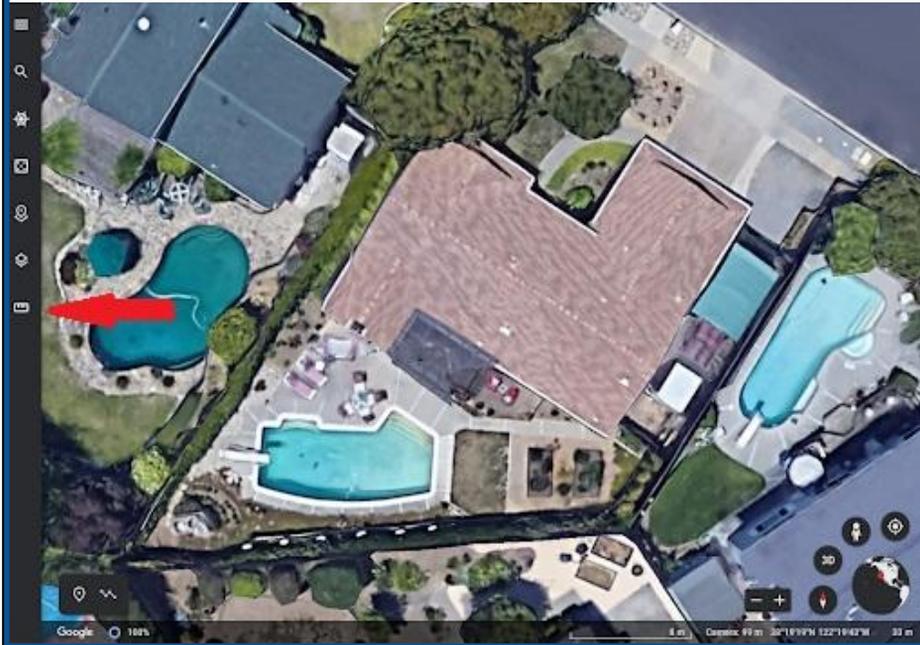
Draw out existing landscape



Draw out existing landscape

It is time to start bringing all this information into focus. Roughly draw out your existing landscape. Start with scratch paper, a pencil and a big eraser. If your project perimeter is large you will need a helper to hold the measure tape. Most folks don't have really long measure tapes so the process will have to be done in steps; recording each measurement and then adding the figures together to get a total. There are programs available on line that will allow you to not only view your entire property from above in real time but that also have measuring tools available for your use. It is much easier to use one of these programs to measure the larger distances and then you can measure the smaller areas with a shorter measuring tape and a friend in one go.

THE PROCESS=Draw out existing landscape



Today we will be using google earth to get those larger measurements

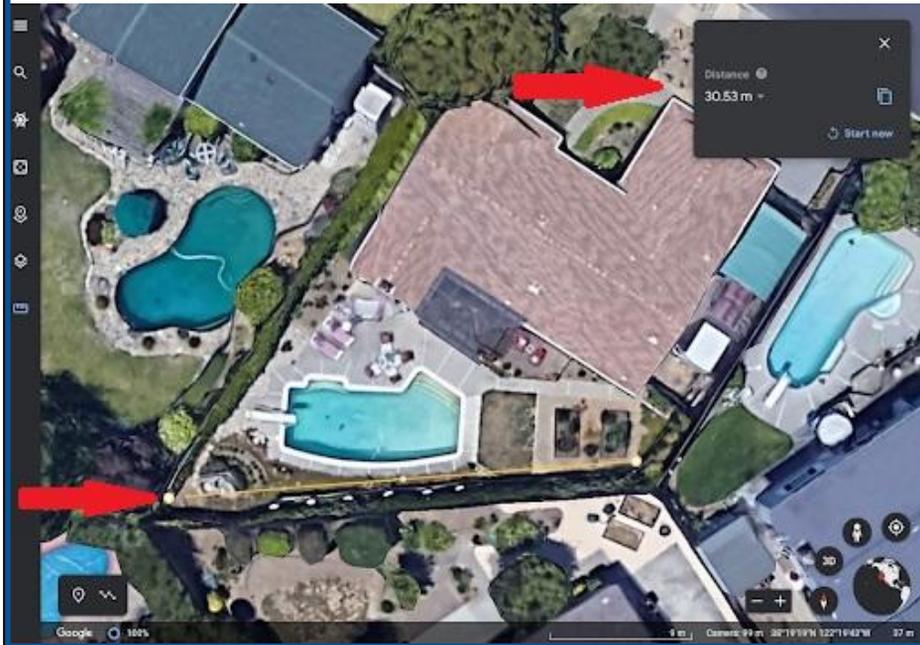
-Open the Google Earth app and type in your address.

-Once you have zeroed into you lot, enlarge the image as much as you can to still get the entire lot.....

-Use the tools on that site to measure the larger items

-The red arrow points to the measuring icon which looks like a small ruler

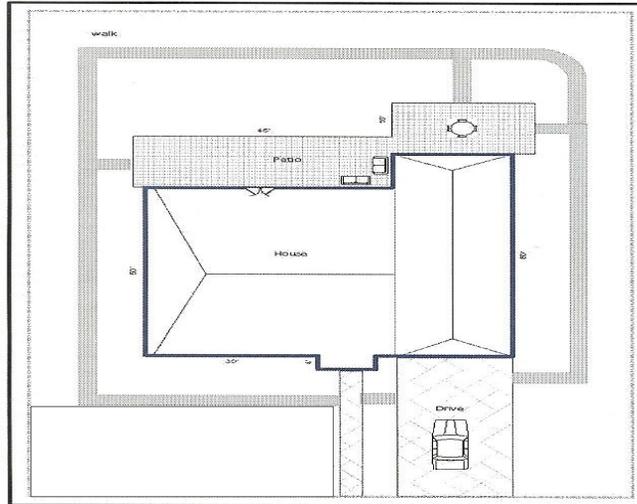
THE PROCESS=Draw out existing landscape



- Click on that small ruler icon and once that opens follow the instructions
- The bottom arrow points to a line we drew using that measuring tool
- The arrow at the top arrow indicates the box that records the measurements and asks if you'd like to start another measurement
- Once you have recorded your larger measurements, print out your google earth photo
- Mark the larger measurements you recorded on the google photo and then add the smaller easier to measure figures to your rough drawing.

THE PROCESS

- Draw out existing landscape

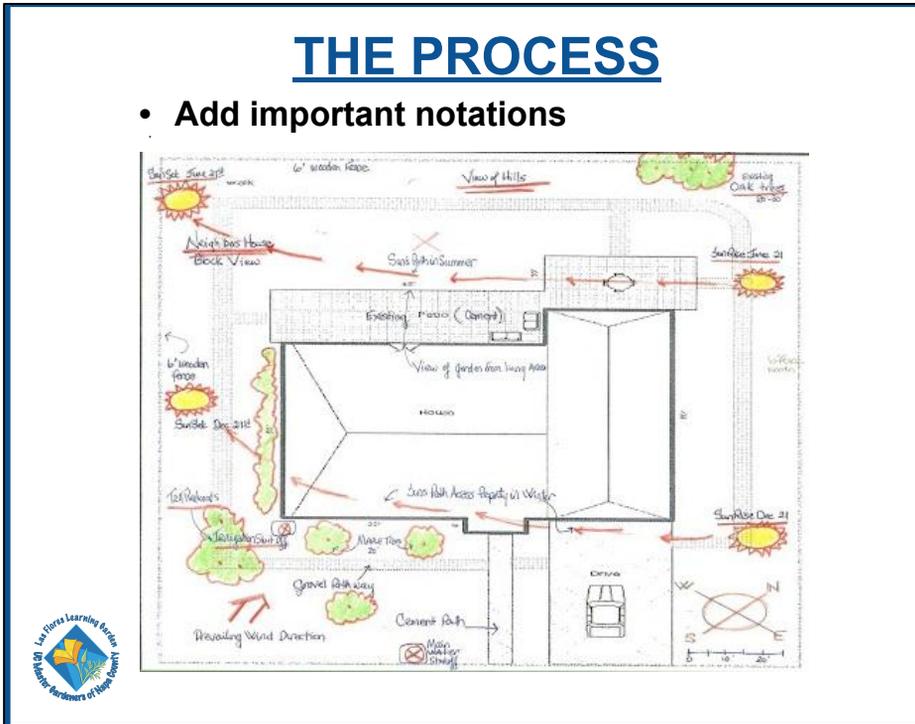


Then, using the information from both the Google earth pic and the rough drawing, do a final property drawing to scale on graph paper. Keep the google earth photo with all your actual measurements at hand for later reference.

Make multiple copies of both.

THE PROCESS

- Add important notations



-Add important notations to you existing landscape drawing:

When planning a landscape project measurements are not the only important information that will be needed for a successful outcome.

Elevations, structures and hardscapes, to name a few, create certain conditions in your garden that will need to be taken into consideration when making plant and design decisions. Here is some of the important information that you will need to note before starting your project:

-a scale indicator that will tell you what distance on the map equals what distance in reality.

-Points of the compass: a north facing landscape area has very different conditions than a south facing area.

-Prevailing winds: the local wind conditions are a big factor in plant selection. In our south valley the winds are much more constant than those upper valley locations. Some plants just don't like the wind.

-Lines of sight: You have a wonderful view of the mountains you want to preserve and enhance. Not so much the neighbors chicken coop. When choosing plantings for those areas, think of the mature height of those plants.

-Locate the existing irrigation lines and hose bibs: You don't want to start

digging without knowing this unless you want an impromptu shower. Plus water access is important information to have when choosing plants for an area.

-Sun/shade coverage: The points of the compass, structures, large trees and the sun's changing trajectory in winter and summer would create areas that at one time of the year might be in shade but at other times of the year in the sun. Determining that sun/shade coverage is rather easy using this formula: Go out at night during a full moon and observe where the moonlight falls, that is where in six month's time the sun will fall..

Example: Jan moonlight=June sunlight.

-Mark all of this information on your final drawing and make multiple copies of it for your use during the project.

Why add important notations?

Pink Muhly Grass

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
(*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)



COLOR(S):
Flowers: Pink
Foliage: Green understory

NEEDS:
Water: Low
Light: Full sun - part shade

HIGH X WIDE:
3-4' X 3-4'

ATTRACTS:
Birds

BLOOM SEASON:
Late summer - March

PLANT FORM AND TYPE:
Grass-like perennial

Drought tolerant; Non-invasive; Grows in clumps; disease-resistant

Glossy Abelia

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Kaliedoscope
(*Abelia x grandiflora*)



COLOR(S):
Flowers: White
Foliage: Variegated multi-color

NEEDS:
Water: Regular
Light: Full sun - partial shade

HIGH X WIDE:
2-3' X 2-3'

ATTRACTS:
Hummingbirds

BLOOM SEASON:
Summer - early fall

PLANT FORM AND TYPE:
Evergreen compact shrub

Dramatic leaf color; Color changes with season: reds, yellow, green

Little Sur Manzanita

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
"Little Sur" or "Carmel Sur"
(*Phyllos edmundsii*)



COLOR(S):
Flowers: Light pink w/red berries
Foliage: Dark green

NEEDS:
Water: Low
Light: Full sun - afternoon shade

HIGH X WIDE:
3.5' X 3.5'

ATTRACTS:
Birds, bees,
hummingbirds

BLOOM SEASON:
Mid - late winter

PLANT FORM AND TYPE:
Evergreen shrub

Drought tolerant; Prune to shape when bark is smooth



You might wonder why adding these notations are so important. Here is a partial view of our LFLG low-water/low-maintenance plant list. You see here the requirements for sun/shade, water needs, size etc. on these example plants. Knowing the important notations about your landscape area will facilitate planning AND plant choices.

THE PROCESS

- **Additional Considerations**
- **Locate research based gardening info to facilitate the proposed project**



-Additional Considerations:

There are some further items that need to be considered before beginning your project:

-Check with local nurseries for plant inventory availability and plan for any fulfillment delays

-Landscape vs hardscape...know the difference. With some exceptions altering/installing hardscapes is best done in the spring or early summer to take advantage of the softer soil from the winter rains. Plant installation, on the other hand, is usually best done in late fall or early winter. This will allow the plant to benefit from the winter rains.

-Consider climate change and how it will affect your final design plan. While things are fresh in your mind:

-Record the locations of existing/updated irrigation in the landscape on one of the copies of your property drawing. Save this in your records to refer to in the years to come.

Note: adding a line of copper wire alongside your irrigation lines will facilitate finding them again with the use of a metal detector.

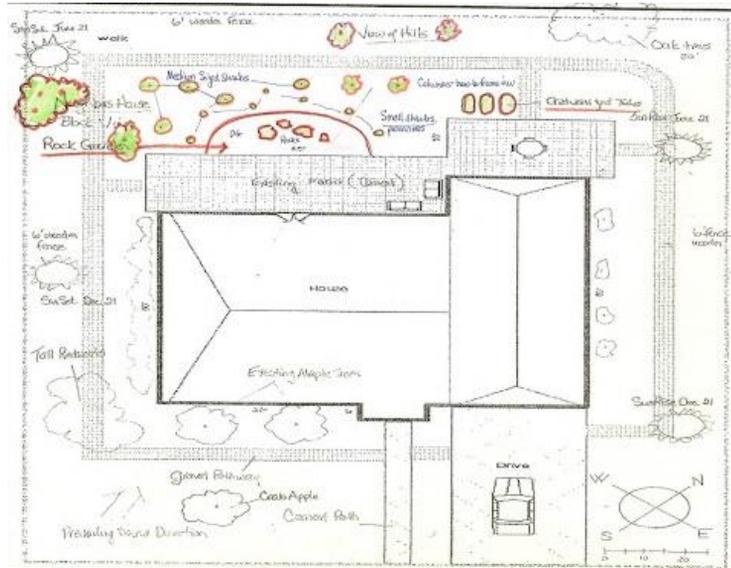
-Record all plant ID information and save this information in a file to be referred to as needed.

Also:

-Check out the various design related free apps and software options online and play with them.

-There are many research based plant selection websites available for your discovery and exploration

THE PROCESS



As a final step: Take one copy of your final drawing and in the area slated for change, rough out the planned landscape project.

THE PROCESS

- Your gardening experience
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Here is that 'Process' again.

**LET'S
TALK
DESIGN**

VISIT OUR GARDEN



4300 Linda Vista Ave. Napa, Ca.



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Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program

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Make sure to stop by our garden to observe, learn and enjoy all aspects of gardening.

Thanks for attending!

UC Master Gardeners of Napa County

Find this presentation & other resources
on our website:

napamg.ucanr.edu



Scan here
for direct
access



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Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program



- Check out our 'Step by Step Garden Design' link on our UCMG webpage
- Thank you