



CALIFORNIA'S NEW FRONT YARD:
Creating a Low-Water Landscape

September 18, 2014

UCDAVIS
ARBORETUM AND
PUBLIC GARDEN





- A** California Native Plant GATEway Garden
- B** Mary Wattis Brown Garden
- C** Law School Rain Garden
- D** Foothill Collection
- E** Robert Mondavi Institute

California Native Plant GATEway Garden

Funded by a variety of sources, including Museums for America, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and UC Davis, a weedy field at the very east end of the Arboretum was transformed to a garden featuring plants native to the lower Putah Creek watershed. The garden features themed plantings and interpretive signs to educate the public about regional flora and fauna, the history of the Putah Creek watershed, and how to create sustainable landscapes with native plants.

Planted in late 2013 and early 2014, the native grasses looked well established by May of 2014. Swaths of *Stipa pulchra*, *Elymus glaucus*, and *Muhlenbergia rigens* provide a counterpoint to native wildflowers, such as *Grindelia camporum*, *Achillea millefolium*, and *Clarkia unguiculata*. As the result of an additional grant funding request currently in progress, this area may also include three teaching patios, a demonstration rain garden, and a wayfinding kiosk to orient visitors from downtown Davis to the Arboretum.

Native plant species include:

Botanical Name.....	Common Name
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box elder
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	California mugwort
<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	milkweed
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	showy milkweed
<i>Aster chilensis</i>	Pacific aster
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote bush
<i>Carex barbarae</i>	Santa Barbara sedge
<i>Carex nudata</i>	torrent sedge
<i>Carex obnupta</i>	slough sedge
<i>Carex praegracilis</i>	field sedge
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western redbud
<i>Clarkia unguiculata</i>	woodland clarkia
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy
<i>Euthamia occidentalis</i>	western goldenrod
<i>Grindelia camporum</i>	gumweed
<i>Helenium puberulum</i>	sneezeweed
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	common bog rush
<i>Juncus patens</i>	spreading rush
<i>Lupinus nanus</i>	sky lupine
<i>Madia elegans</i>	common madia
<i>Melica californica</i>	California melic
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	deergrass
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	Coffeeberry
<i>Rosa californica</i>	California wild rose
<i>Saxifraga lasiolepis</i>	Arroyo willow
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	blue eyed grass
<i>Stipa pulchra</i>	purple needle grass
<i>Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus</i>	Snowberry
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Skunk bush



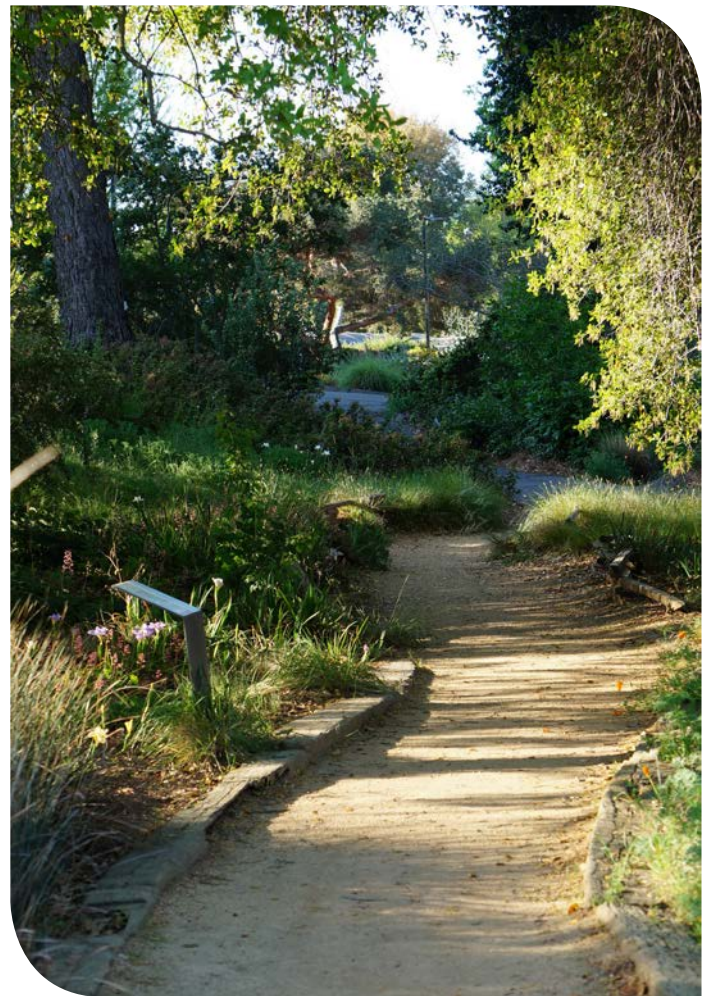
For more information about this garden, visit: <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>

Mary Wattis Brown Garden

The Mary Wattis Brown Garden of California Native Plants includes an extensive collection of native plants that work well in home landscapes, arrayed along meandering paths under stately oaks. The garden showcases a native meadow—a California-style lawn—and many Arboretum All-Stars, our recommended plants for Valley-wise gardens. Mary Wattis Brown was an avid gardener and botanist who recognized the need for education to promote conservation of California’s wild heritage.

There are over 1700 native plant species in the garden. Some plants of note include:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	common yarrow
<i>Carex buxbaumii</i> ‘Butts Canyon’	uxbaum’s sedge
<i>Carex densa</i>	dense sedge
<i>Carex divulsa</i>	grassland sedge
<i>Carex nudata</i>	torrent sedge
<i>Carex obnupta</i>	slough sedge
<i>Carex praegracilis</i>	field sedge
<i>Juncus balticus</i>	Baltic rush
<i>Juncus patens</i>	spreading rush
<i>Juncus patens</i> ‘Quartz Creek’	Quartz Creek soft rush
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	junegrass
<i>Melica californica</i>	California melic
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	deerglass
<i>Stipa lepida</i>	foothill needle grass
<i>Arctostaphylos densiflora</i> ‘Howard McMinn’	Manzanita
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> ‘Emerald Carpet’	groundcover Manzanita
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> ‘Twin Peaks Two’	Coyote bush
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i> ‘Compacta’	Oregon Grape
<i>Ceanothus griseus v. horizontalis</i>	Ceanothus
<i>Ceanothus maritimus</i> ‘Valley Violet’	Ceanothus ‘Valley Violet’
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides v. blancheae</i>	Mountain Mohogany
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	California Iris
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Monkeyflower
<i>Ribes speciosum</i>	Currant
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	Purple Sage
<i>Woodwardia fimbriata</i>	Giant Chain Fern



For a complete plant list and map of the garden, visit:
http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/documents/MWB-MaryWattisBrown_updated.pdf

Law School Rain Garden

The landscaping at the Law School reflects the best practices of low-water landscaping and a local sense of place. All rain water from the roof of the Law School addition is directed from downspouts into detention and percolation basins. The design of the basins connects visitors with the path of the water, in particular by directing the water under a grate at the main entry.

Drought-tolerant plants that can be found within this garden include:

Botanical Name.....	Common Name
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	common bog rush
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	deergrass
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western redbud
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak
<i>Lavandula sp.</i>	Lavender



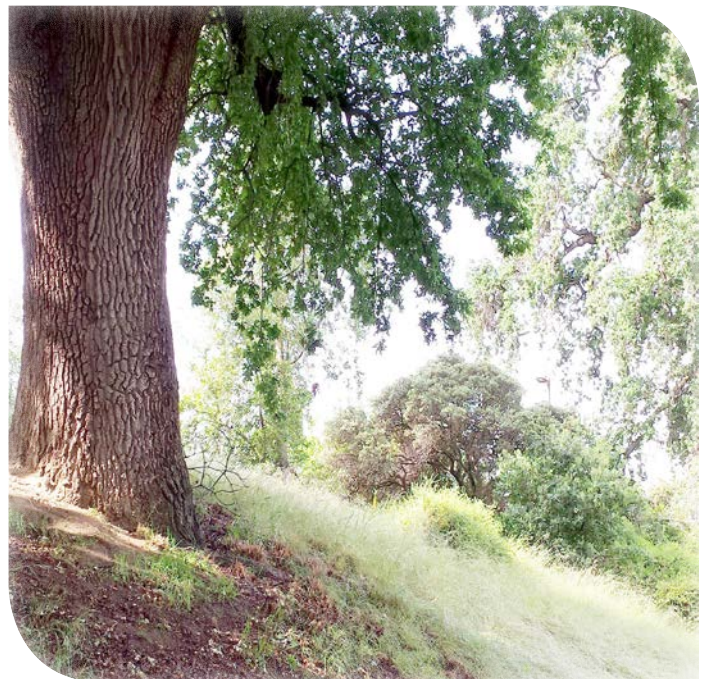
For more information about this garden, visit: <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>

Foothill Collection

The California Foothill Collection displays large trees and shrubs native to the foothills surrounding the Central Valley, including several majestic 200-year-old valley oaks, pines, ceanothus, and several species of native currants and gooseberries, whose flowers produce a delicious fragrance in mid-winter. Visitors can see a hillside covered with graceful native grasses used as groundcovers.

Drought-tolerant plants that can be found within this garden include:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Carex praegracilis</i>	field sedge
<i>Juncus balticus</i>	Baltic rush
<i>Juncus patens</i>	spreading rush
<i>Juncus patens</i> ‘Quartz Creek’	Quartz Creek soft rush
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	junegrass
<i>Melica californica</i>	California melic
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	deergross
<i>Stipa pulchra</i>	purple needlegrass
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> ‘Pigeon Point’	Pigeon Point coyote bush
<i>Ceanothus</i> ‘Joyce Coulter’	Ceanothus
<i>Heuchera maxima</i>	Coral bells
<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>	California black oak
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	Sugar sumac
<i>Rosa californica</i>	California wild rose
<i>Salix laevigata</i>	Red willow
<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>	onoma creeping sage
<i>Vitis</i> ‘Roger’s Red’	Roger’s California grape



For more information about this garden, visit: <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>

Robert Mondavi Institute

The Robert Mondavi Institute has two water-conserving and native grass landscapes, the Events Lawn and the Fire Lane.

Events Lawn

Within the events lawn overflow ‘no-mow’ turf area, the Delta Bluegrass mix was installed as a sod. This grass can be mowed for events when needed, but requires no mowing when not being used.

Native grasses and sedges in the basin include:

- 30% Little Bighorn Blue Fescue (*Festuca ovina subsp. glauca*)
- 30% Gotham Hard Fescue (*Festuca trachyphylla*)
- 20% Cardinal Creeping Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*)
- 20% Compass Chewing Fescue (*Festuca rubra subsp. Commutate*)



Fire Lane

The fire lane access was unique in that the grasses had to survive installation and establishment in a very hostile environment. The interlocking block pavement had very small holes, no wider than a grass plug (about 1-inch square). The base of the pavers was gravel, so the grasses had to be able to penetrate the gravel layer to fully root. Overhead irrigation allowed them to establish, and now they form a unique grid over an access route that would have to support the weight of a fire truck!

Fire lane grasses include:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	blue grama
<i>Festuca glauca</i> ‘Elijah Blue’	Elijah Blue fescue

