

Garden Wise TV Episode 18: Go California Native

In this Garden Wise Episode, local experts share helpful advice on how to effectively utilize water wise native California flora to achieve the landscape of your dreams.



Billy Goodnick kicks off the episode by welcoming viewers to join him in his intellectual journey of dispelling myths about California natives. He emphasizes the reality of being able to save water while simultaneously building a beautiful garden to enhance your home. He is joined by Betsy Collins, Director of Horticulture at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, who shares her favorite natives and discusses myths about California

natives. Can California natives really grow anywhere with little to no effort? Are drip systems and micro-sprays the ultimate solution to a smarter garden? Betsy welcomes all who are interested to visit the Botanic Garden for expert help or to look through the Water Wise Native Plant booklet available for free at the Botanic Garden or [online](#).

Next, Oscar Carmona, instructor for the Green Gardener class series, walks us through the steps on how to properly plant a plant. He emphasizes the importance of moistening your soil before planting and removing all air gaps to prevent root rot to best promote your plant's overall success.



Goodnick moves on to guide viewers through using one of the popular resources available at WaterWiseSB.org. Did you know you can create a personalized list of plants that best fit your needs? Goodnick focuses on elements of design to build your dream garden and to ensure it functions as you intend it to. Things such as knowing how to dig the right size hole for your plant, what to put into the hole and where to find professional help are all crucial to creating the environment you seek!

Following Goodnick's how-to seminar, Andrew Raaf from the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District and landscape architect Kim True offer tips for preventing soil erosion on your property. Where does water drain on your property? How can you best prepare your outdoor landscape for large rain events? They recommend deep-root natives, the construction of small terraces over steep slopes, getting free bi-annual mulch deliveries and more.



Finally, Water Resources Specialist Cathie Paré joins us to demonstrate the importance of monitoring your irrigation system for leaks and inefficient water-use. She highlights basic sprinkler mechanics, the downsides of high pressure systems, and the importance of staying knowledgeable of water-use on your property to ensure you sleep well at night knowing your money and resources are being put to their best use.

Remember, we as individuals are all capable of creating positive change in our community and having a beautiful sustainable landscape is part of the water-saving puzzle. Now, you have the tools to create a healthy, water wise garden. Learn more about designing water wise landscapes by visiting our website WaterWiseSB.org.

