Right Plant, Right Place
Right Plant, Right Place

THREE MAIN POINTS:

1. Understand the unique conditions of the site and the purpose of the landscape, then pick plants that naturally fit both

2. The Right Plant in the Right Place will be healthy and beautiful with less work and money

3. Proper plant selection and placement is one of the most important ways to conserve resources and prevent pollution.
Right Plant, Right Place

What’s Inside Your Binder?

• Course Slides
• Field Evaluation
• Field Evaluation Example
• Right Plant, Right Place Worksheet
• Lawn Alternatives
• Self Assessment ---HOMEWORK!---
• Field Evaluation ---HOMEWORK!---
Describe A GOOD Landscape

• Functional
• Beautiful
• Sustainable
  - Low maintenance
  - Limited inputs
  - Limited waste
Site Assessment

- Microclimates
- Site conditions
- Water
- Soil
- Wind
- Sun
- Topography
Landscape Function

- Why is it important to understand the function of the landscape?
  - Purpose - provide shade or privacy
  - Activities - baseball, BBQ, gardening
  - Investment - installation, renovation, maintenance
Landscape Function

**FIRST**
- Analyze site conditions
- Understand purpose

**THEN**
- Pick plants that naturally fit both
Genetic Destiny

• Every plant grows to a set of characteristics – height, width, etc.
• 10’ tree under 3’ window?
  Right Plant, Wrong Place
• Don’t fight Genetic Destiny, creates extra work & waste
Genetic Destiny

- Landscape function?
- Right plant?
- If not, why not?
- What plant characteristics would fit these sites?
Mediterranean Climates

- Cool, wet winters and warm, dry summers
- Much of CA/North Baja, Australia, South Africa, Mediterranean Sea, & Chile.
- 100s of beautiful plants naturally adapted to our climate
Responsibilities of a Green Gardener

1. Know your plants
2. Replace plants that are in the wrong place
What Do We Need to Know?

- **Plant width at maturity**
  - Mature plant **WIDTH** is the most important piece of information you need about PLANT SPACING.

- **Plant height at maturity**

- **Other considerations:**
  - Plant’s water needs: low, medium, high water use
  - Speed of growth
  - Unique growing needs or tolerances
How Do We Know?

- **Observation**: Walk the neighborhood
- Visit nurseries and read tags; nursery websites
- Waterwisesb.org: Water Wise Plant Database
- *Sunset Western Garden Book*
- *Landscape Plants for Western Regions*: Bob Perry
- SelecTree: [http://selectree.calpoly.edu/](http://selectree.calpoly.edu/) Enter name or attributes (height, color, width, wind, etc.)
Plant Replacement

The cost of the Right Plant in the Wrong Place

- More labor (pruning, pest management, irrigation)
- More greenwaste and hauling costs / composting costs
- More water costs
- More pest problems, pesticide use, pollution

The advantage of the Right Plant in the Right Place

- Reduced labor
- Reduced water costs
- Reduced problems (pest, safety)
- Better landscape function
- Reduced pollution
Green Gardener Program for Santa Barbara County

Planting by Zones

- Site assessment
  - Water, soil, wind, sun, topography
- Hydrozones
- Soil zones
- Wind zones
- Solar zones
- Topographic zones
Planting by Zones

Solar Zone

Hydrozone
Where Would You Plant…

- Shade loving plants?

- Heat loving plants?

- Identify the hottest spot in this yard
Example #1

- Unique conditions of site?
- Function of landscape?
- Characteristics of Right Plants?
- Options?
Example #2

- Unique conditions of site?
- Function of landscape?
- Characteristics of Right Plants?
- Options?
Example #3

- Unique conditions of site?
- Function of landscape?
- Characteristics of Right Plants?
- Options?
Example #4
Example #4
Example #4
Example #4
Review and Questions

- **Three Main Points:**
  - Understand the unique conditions of the site and the purpose of the landscape, then pick plants that naturally fit both
  - The Right Plant in the Right Place will be healthy and beautiful with less work and money.
  - Proper plant selection and placement is one of the most important ways to conserve resources and prevent pollution.

- **Name 2 benefits of appropriate plant selection and placement**

- **What are the three important things to know before designing a landscape?**

- **Define Hydrozone**
Homework

• Fill out the Right Plant Right Place Field Evaluation form for one client, bring back to class
## Right Plant in the Right Place

### Field Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Observation</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hydrozones</td>
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<td>Soil Zone</td>
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<td>Wind Zone</td>
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<td>Topographic Zone</td>
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<td>Plant size</td>
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<td>Growth Rate</td>
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<td>Appropriate Shrubs</td>
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