



Enter the Monterey Bay Area Water-Smart Garden Contest

Win prizes and share your water saving ideas with other gardeners. The Monterey Bay Master Gardeners, local water agencies and other water-smart gardening minded companies are seeking beautiful gardens that save water through plant selection, efficient irrigation and other "water-smart" methods.

*Over \$1000 in prizes
for professional and
home gardeners*

What can I win?

Winning gardeners get cash, prizes, recognition at the Smart Gardening Faire on June 21st at Scotts Valley Skypark and get to show their gardens in the Water-Smart Garden Tour on August 9-10!

Regional Awards

There are awards for **Water-Smart Plant Selection** and **Water-Smart Irrigation** in three regions of the Monterey Bay Area: Santa Cruz County, Pajaro Valley area and Monterey County. Separate awards will be given for amateur home gardeners and professional landscape architects/designers/contractors.

Four Theme Garden Awards

One of each will be given to an outstanding garden in the Monterey Bay area.

- Water-Smart Garden of California Native Plants
- Water-Smart Garden of Succulent Plants
- Water-Smart Garden of Mediterranean Plants
- Water-Smart Garden of Creative Lawn Alternatives

A "Water-Smart" garden could include some or all of these elements.

- Plants that thrive with minimal supplementary water, e.g., California native plants, Mediterranean plants, and succulents without invasive species.
- The use of mulches or groundcover to minimize water loss due to evaporation.
- An irrigation system that uses drip emitters, micro-sprayers, weather based irrigation controllers, and other water efficient irrigation components. Rainwater catchment could be a feature of the irrigation system.
- The use of ground covers and lawn alternatives, rather than conventional turf lawns that use a lot of water. Some examples could be synthetic turf or low water use grasses.
- Plants that are grouped together according to their water needs. Plantings that are appropriate for the microclimate of the garden.

How do I enter the Contest?

Follow the instructions on the back, fill out the entry form, and mail photos and a description of your garden to Monterey Bay Master Gardeners, P. O. Box 1786 Capitola, CA 95010.

Must be postmarked by May 16th, 2008.

Questions?

See our list of FAQs on www.smartgardening.org
e-mail answers@smartgardening.org
or call 831-646-4656 for information about the contest.





Entry Form

Thank you for conserving water in your garden. The Water-Smart Garden Contest is open to residential gardens in Monterey County or Santa Cruz County. If you are a professional landscape architect, designer or contractor, you may enter your own home garden or any other residential garden with the garden owner's consent and compete for prizes with other professionals. If you are a home gardener and have not been trained or employed in landscape design, you may enter your home garden in the contest and compete for prizes with other nonprofessionals.

The contest sponsors will consider all eligible entrants for a Regional Award or a Theme Garden Award and announce the winners at the Smart Gardening Faire at Scotts Valley's Skypark on June 21st, 2008. You do not have to be present to win. The winning gardens must be open to tour attendees during the Water-Smart Garden tour on August 9th and 10th, 2008. The Water-Smart Garden Tour showcases the successful gardens of skilled gardeners and gives other gardeners an opportunity to see outstanding examples of "water-smart" methods. The Monterey Bay Master Gardeners will schedule qualified volunteers to provide photography prior to or during the tour, and to support the selected garden on the days of the tour.

Applicant Info

Applicant/Contact name _____

Contact address _____
Address City Zip

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Category (check one): Professional Landscape Architect/Designer Nonprofessional Home Gardener

Garden Info

Garden Address (if different than above) _____
Address City

Attach a description of your garden and tell us how it is "Water-Smart." See the other side for elements of a "water-smart" garden. You may include a plant list, irrigation system specifics, mulches, rain catchment systems or any other information highlighting your water-smart methods.

Include 5-10 photos of your garden, each labeled with the garden address. (Photos will not be returned.)

Authorization

I hereby enter the garden identified above in the 2008 Water-Smart Garden Contest. I agree to make myself and this garden available at mutually acceptable times for judging and publicity photography by the Monterey Bay Master Gardeners, and to open my garden to the public during the Water-Smart Garden Tour on August 9th and 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Signature of entrant _____ Date _____

Garden owner (if different than entrant) _____ Date _____

Mail your application by May 16th

to Monterey Bay Master Gardeners, P. O. Box 1786 Capitola, CA 95010.