

## Garden Wise TV Episode 11: Lawn Be Gone: What to Do Next (30:06)

As the drought continues, water is becoming more valuable than ever, making learning to conserve an absolute necessity. To help, cities all over the county are giving money to residents to be more water wise! In this episode, we'll tell you what to do to get in on the deal and how to transform your landscape once you do.

Like many residents in Santa Barbara County, Dorothy and David had a large stretch of lawn in their backyard, but were unaware how much water they were using. After learning about Solvang's water problem and how they were a top residential user, the couple decided to take part in Solvang's smart landscape rebate program. They hired a professional to draw up plans to include a dry creek bed, and beautiful lavender and blue plants. Their participation has allowed them to cut their water use by 60%, and save money from reduced maintenance. Another resident in Goleta participated in their local rebate program to turn her dead lawn into a colorful garden. Goleta rebate program covered part of the cost of design, but Vandana decided to design it herself. She looked for plants that had vibrant colors and used little water. Whether you hire a professional or do-it-yourself, start thinking about how you can make your landscape more water wise. To learn more about the rebate programs in your city, visit [WaterWiseSB.org/Rebates](http://WaterWiseSB.org/Rebates).



Don't know where to begin? Joan Bolton, local garden designer, gives us some ideas from one of her



projects to create a colorful, water-saving garden. Her clients for this project wanted to create topography, a habitat for birds, and emphasize water conservation. The landscape is contoured to keep water on site by directing the gutters towards a dry stream bed. The stream bed slows and spreads the water into the soil for the plants, and what is left percolates into the groundwater basin. This garden includes

Mediterranean plants, native plants, and succulents. The diversity of the plants on site provides year-round habitat for wildlife. Some of the plants include *Salvia*, a huge hummingbird and bee magnet, and *Ceanothus*, a native low growing plant that after the first two years can survive with very little rain. For even more ideas to transform your landscape visit [WaterWiseSB.org](http://WaterWiseSB.org).

Local organization, Sweetwater Collaborative, has been hosting a series of events to help equip and educate residents to make water wise changes to their landscapes. In this next segment, we join their water wise walking tour to find out how they are teaching people to save water and still have thriving gardens. The walking tour highlights homes that have developed unique water wise features such as native gardens, rain tanks, and greywater systems. The tour began at the home of Bruce and Michelle Kendall to view their two-year old buffalo grass lawn. This native only requires 1.5 inches of rain per month, which is about of third of traditional grass, and only requires mowing twice a year. Their home



also included a water spout directing water onto their landscape and rainwater tanks. This captured most of the rainwater for their landscape and produced almost no run-off from the property. Each of Sweetwater Collaborative's events aims at showing the community that having a garden that is both beautiful and water efficient is possible. Want to attend one of their events? Visit [SweetWaterCollaborative.org](http://SweetWaterCollaborative.org).

Now that you have some ideas for your landscape, let's talk about what plants to use. Santa Barbara County has a number of great nurseries with a wide selection of drought tolerant and native plants. First we meet with Bob Blokdyk, owner of Windmill Nursery in Buellton to learn about the plants they offer. They include drought tolerant plants from climatically similar regions such as the Mediterranean, Australia, South America, and Africa. A hummingbird flower from Northern Mexico is sold next to English Lavender, and a Mediterranean plant called Rockrose. These plants perform well in Santa Barbara and attract pollinators. This nursery also includes a variety of natives, such as several species of Manzanita. Next, we head to Carpinteria to meet with José Manzo at Seaside Gardens. The first plant



we look at is saltbush, a very versatile and fire retardant plant. Native salvias tend to be very fragrant and have unique looking flowers. Finally, Angelita Daisies bloom all year round and once established they use very little water. This nursery has a demonstration garden to show people how these plants bloom and the maintenance required. To find the perfect plants for your garden, visit your local nursery.

That's it for this episode! As our host Becky Davis reminds us, "you are the agent of change and together we can create beautiful climate appropriate gardens." Visit our online resources to help you get started on your new water wise landscape!

