

episode one: Right Plant, Right Place

In episode one, Billy and Owen take you to a landscape in the mountains of Santa Barbara and another on a small suburban lot in the city. First they decide what plants to keep and what to get rid of — heads roll and branches fly! With laser-like focus, the Garden Wise Guys make sustainable plant choices using the key concept of “right plant, right place” matching plants to the unique conditions of the site. These choices lead to savings in resources, time and money. The guys explain why their approach will help you reduce maintenance, which is typically 80% of the cost of the landscape. See how you and your landscape can have it all: beauty, function and sustainability!

key concepts

1. Size and Spacing

Leaving enough room for the eventual mature size of the plant. A plant's "genetic destiny" tells how big it will be when it grows up, no matter how much you trim it or plead with it. Ignore this simple fact if you like, but if you don't leave room, you'll be causing a lot of needless work. Save Water and Reduce Work!



2. Sun and Shade

Every plant has specific light requirements. It is important to place plants where they won't receive too much or too little light.

Different Types of Sunlight:

Dappled Shade: underneath a tree

Full Shade: north side of the house

Morning vs. Afternoon Sun: morning sun comes in the cool part of the day and isn't a problem for most plants, afternoon sun is usually more intense and tougher on some plants.

Seasonal Shade: position of sun changes throughout the year changing the effect on plants.



*Luckily there are some plants that do well in multiple light settings.

These multipurpose plants can be used as a repeating theme in your garden design and bridge separate areas aesthetically.

CA
Fuchsia



Asparagus
Fern



Aeonium



Mondo
Grass



3. Soil Type

Check your soil type and adapt the plants to the soil type. Sandy soil needs frequent watering, while heavy clay soils will retain moisture longer but can also cause problems for plants that need good drainage.

