SMART & ATTRACTIVE LAWN ALTERNATIVES:

WHY DO WE LIKE LAWNS?
- Lawns do some things best
- Green denotes lush, moist, abundant
- Historically “safe”—no hidden enemies
- Maybe we don’t know what else to do

WHAT’S WRONG WITH LAWNS?
- Monoculture is ecologically unbalanced
- High fossil fuel input—gasoline, chemicals
- Reduces habitat diversity

STYLES & INTERPRETATIONS
- California Native
- Modern/Contemporary
- Woodland
- Mediterranean

IDEAS
- Children’s Garden
- Fairy Garden
- Butterfly Garden
- Water Garden
- Habitat Garden
- Bird Watching Garden
- Sculpture Garden
- Edible Garden
- Herb Garden
- Cutting Flower Garden
- Zen Meditation Garden
- Feng Shui Garden
- Cactus/Desert Garden
- Rock Garden
- Dogs
- Electric train garden
- Dog garden (include a ‘digging area’ to hide bones)
- Outdoor camping area with a fire circle

RESOURCES
Going Native Garden Tour - April goingnativegardentour.org
California Native Plant Society www.cnps.org
Professional Lawn Replacement www.naturalfrontyards.com (South Bay area, so. of highway 92)
California Native Garden Foundation www.cngf.org
Sustainable Landscaping Site with lists of professionals and pictures www.landscapestandards.com
HERBAL “LAWNS”
• Wooly Thyme, Creeping Thyme, Elfin Thyme
• Yarrow
• Corsican Mint
• Chamomile
• Sweet Woodruff
• Yerba Buena

MEADOWS of “No Mow” Grasses
☐ Seasonal changes
☐ Flowers sway in the breeze
☐ Can be mowed as a traditional lawn
☐ Can be weed whacked annually
☐ Provide habitat for birds, butterflies
☐ Can be interplanted with wildflowers

Creeping Grasses
Dune Sedge Carex pansa
California Field Sedge C. praegracilis
Red Fescue Festuca rubra
(Molate and Jughandle var.)
Idaho Fescue Festuca idahoensis
Buffalo Grass Bouteloua dactyloides ‘U.C. Verde’
Thin Grass Agrostis pallens

Bunching Grasses
Foothill Sedge Carex tumulicola
California Fescue Festuca californica
Leafy Reed Grass Calamagrostis foliosa
June Grass Koeleria macrantha
Purple Needle Grass Nasella pulchra
Blue Grama Grass Bouteloua gracilis

ESTABLISHING A MEADOW
☐ Relaxed attitude around perfection/change
☐ Decide on type of grass
☐ Mixed with flowers?
☐ Transplants or seed?
☐ Pre-germination of existing weed seeds
☐ Weeding important until established

ECO-LAWN: Mixture of clover, yarrow & dwarf fescues, use seed
NATIVE MEADOW GRASS NOW AVAILABLE IN SOD (+/- $1.90/sft)
Capitol Wholesale Nursery www.capitolwholesalenursery.com
Native Revival Nursery www.nativerevival.com

ARTIFICIAL LAWN: never needs mowing or watering – but can’t recycle it
and is hot (and doesn’t improve the environment like plants do). See
http://www.valleywater.org/uploadedFiles/Programs/WaterConservation/Landscaping/01_Artificial
%20Turf%20Fact%20Sheet_030614%20BA.pdf?n=1336 for more information on Artificial Turf

DROUGHT TOLERANTGROUND COVERS
Manzanita, Rosemary, Dwarf Coyote Bush, Dwarf Ceanothus,
Dymondia, Beach Strawberry, Lowfast Cotoneaster

SANTA MONICA DEMONSTRATION GARDEN
☐ ¼ of the maintenance labor
☐ 3/5 of the green waste
☐ 1/10 of the water
To view online: www.santa-monica.org/epd/news/gardengarden.htm
(or just google: garden/garden santa monica)