

## **Drought Tolerant Landscapes**

Given the serious water shortage that currently prevails in our area and the new water charges being implemented by the water company, the Architectural Control Committee have formulated the following guide lines for the landscaping of our properties. Our intention is to give the HOA Membership as much freedom as possible in the choice of landscape design while still retaining harmony referred to in our CC&R's.

The ACC are trying to avoid the bland landscaping that abounds in our neighboring communities and hope that the guide will reaffirm the uniformity but give our members sufficiently wide choices to reflect individuality we all desire.

The obvious starting point in being water wise is our lawns. Where homeowners wish to replace the grass area this should be done using either ground coverings of rocks and stones that vary in size and color and with selected medium/long bark as a contrast. Large boulders that can be used as a focal point to the landscaping are also encouraged. However, where the choice of colored rocks and stones is made we suggest earth tones such as terra cotta and advise against strong red colored stones that are all too common in the surrounding communities. In addition the area of rocks or ground cover should be broken up with plants and shrubs that can tolerate drought conditions, or with native and Californian friendly plants. All areas of rock or stones should be delineated by a type of curbing or block.

The associated photographs help to illustrate the type of landscaping that will be found acceptable to the ACC.

A lot of helpful literature is available from our local water company EMWD and from the adjacent water company WMWD. They both have well laid out demonstration gardens and informative web pages that provide a lot of help and advice on plant choice and watering guide lines.

In conclusion, we remind all homeowners that notwithstanding the above guidance full Architectural Control Committee approval is required for any changes to the landscaping.

The following internet sites are recommended:-

[www.emwd.org](http://www.emwd.org)

[www.wmwd.com](http://www.wmwd.com)

[www.usewaterwisley.org](http://www.usewaterwisley.org)

[www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com)

**Please note architectural approval must be received in writing prior to the start of any work.**