

While creating and maintaining

your own garden can be a satisfying experience, hiring help is sometimes also appropriate, and even necessary. Whether you want to hire a professional for help with design or are considering a landscaping company for regular maintenance, look for a landscaper whose practices are compatible with Bay-Friendly principles.

How a landscape professional manages your yard and garden — from using pesticides to choosing plants — has an impact on your garden, our natural resources and the San Francisco Bay watershed. Urban runoff carries pesticides, sediment, and fertilizer into storm drains, which lead to our creeks, waterways and eventually the Bay. Choosing a landscape professional who uses Bay-Friendly practices can eliminate or minimize these hazards.

Ask prospective landscape professionals if they will:

- Offer an organic or environmentally sensitive program
- Test the soil to determine nutrient needs
- Use natural, organic, or slow-release fertilizers
- Use compost
- Recommend native or Mediterranean plants
- Look for pest-resistant and disease-resistant plants
- Select drought-tolerant plants
- Mulch beds annually with leaves, chips, compost or other plant debris
- Recycle plant debris
- Grasscycle or mulch mow
- Make water conservation a high priority
- Regularly maintain and adjust irrigation systems
- Use an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach
- Consider habitat needs for birds and pollinators



Hire a Bay-Friendly Qualified Professional

As more homeowners are interested in creating gardens that mimic natural systems, it stands to reason that more landscapers will offer complementary services. Bay-Friendly Qualified Professionals have completed a comprehensive training program focused on landscaping strategies and techniques that work with nature to reduce waste, conserve resources and prevent pollution.

If your current landscape professional is not Bay-Friendly Qualified encourage them to learn more about the Bay-Friendly Landscape Training and Qualification programs for Designing New Landscapes or Maintaining Existing Landscapes.

To find a Bay-Friendly Qualified Professional for your project, visit www.bayfriendlycoalition.org/qpdirectory.php.



Helpful Community Resources

It can be hard to keep up with the latest gardening techniques and resources. Luckily there are cities, counties and other local agencies, as well as volunteer groups, available to help with everything from irrigation rebates to sources of free compost and demonstration gardens.

A few places to start when looking online or in the phone book for programs in your community include:

- City Public Works
- City Department of the Environment
- Municipal Stormwater Prevention Program
- County Resource Conservation District
- County Waste Management Agency
- County Master Gardeners
- City or County Garden Club
- California Native Plant Society Chapter
- Community Gardens



For more information visit the Bay-Friendly website at www.bayfriendly.org or blog at www.bayfriendlyblog.org.

Garden Design Survey



Survey Your Site

It helps to start by identifying what you have, and then building a design around that. Take a few minutes to think about the possibilities and limitations of your site.

1. What is your general exposure?
 Full sun Partial shade Full shade
2. What type of soil do you have?
 Clay Sand Loam
3. Is there a slope?
 Gentle Steep Flat
4. How does water flow? (For example, are there seasonal wet spots or surface water.)
5. How does the soil drain? Will the existing soil need to be amended with compost to improve drainage?
6. Are there areas to avoid? (For example, underground cables, water and sewer pipes, or contaminated soil.)
7. Are wind breaks needed?
8. Is there existing landscaping?
9. Are there plants and other features that you would like to retain from the existing landscape?
10. Where are water spigots? Is there an existing irrigation system?
11. What kind of garden do you have? (Check all that apply.)
 Flower Vegetable Edible
 Herb Fruit Rock
 Woodland Large tree Collector's plant
 Wildlife Butterfly Hummingbird Insect-attracting
 Drought-tolerant Native plant Permaculture Low-maintenance
 Other

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