

# *Welcome*





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## *Community Facilities Tour*

October 16, 2025

Receive a behind-the-scenes experience, visiting key facilities like well sites, booster stations, the surface water treatment plant, and the Sterling Natural Resource Center.

## *Waterpalooza Festival*

November 8, 2025

Splash into fun for the entire family with outdoor games, music, crafts, giveaways, trackless train rides, and more.



# **PREPPING YOUR GARDEN TO THRIVE IN THE FALL**

Isabel Hernandez, Water Conservation Specialist  
Saturday, September 6, 2025



# WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

- Garden Fundamentals
  - *Soil*
  - *Irrigation*
  - *Plant needs and tips*
  - *Fertilizer*
  - *Mulch/amendments/compost*
  - *Mulch tips and warnings*
  - *Compost tips*





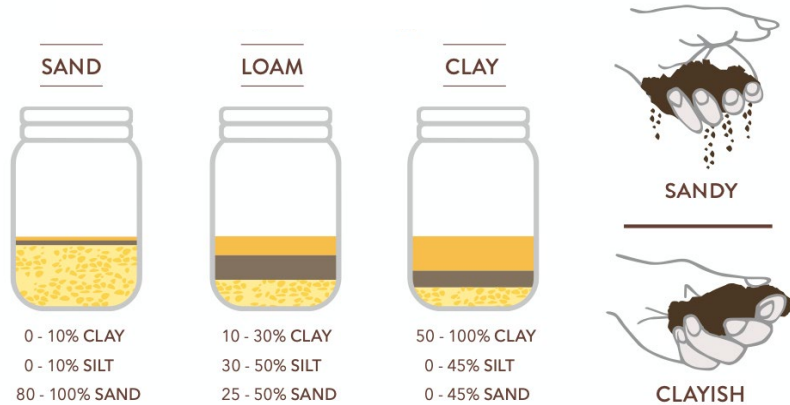
# WORKSHOP OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

- Fall Garden Management
  - *Weed control*
  - *Irrigation troubleshooting*
  - *Watering guidelines*
- Fall Garden Task
  - *Dig alert*
  - *Tool maintenance*
  - *Pruning*
  - *Divide plants*
  - *Planting tips*
  - *Frost protection*
- Website Resources



# GARDEN FUNDAMENTALS

# GARDEN FUNDAMENTALS: THINGS TO KNOW



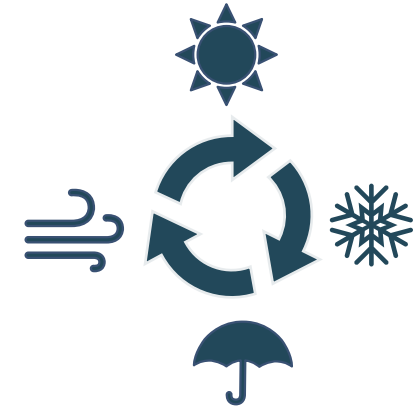
Soil  
Type

*See SoCal Yard  
Transformation Book*



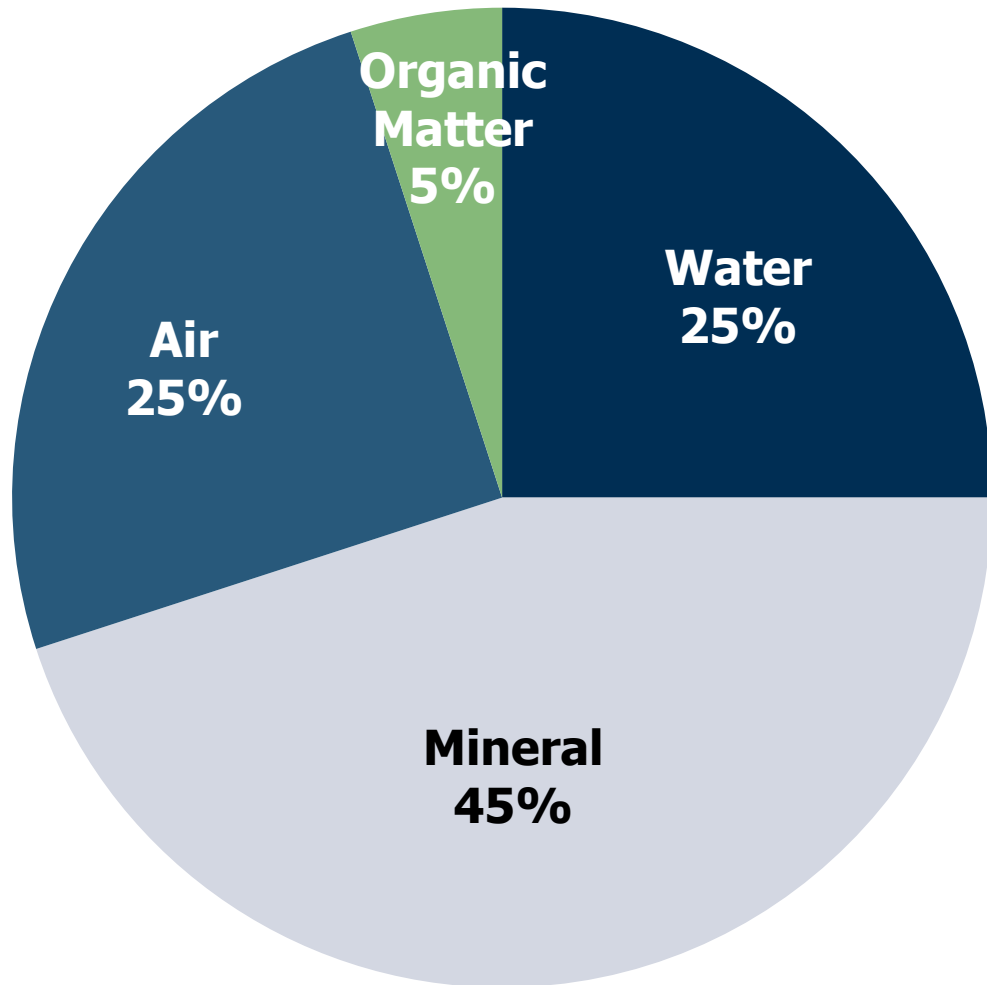
Watering  
Needs

*Fact: Overwatering and planting  
in the wrong place can cause  
major problems in a landscape*



Climate  
Environment

# HEALTHY SOIL COMPOSITION



## **25% Water - H<sub>2</sub>O**

All life needs an adequate amount



## **25% Oxygen - Air**

Prevents soil compactions



## **5% Organic Matter - Compost**

Breakdown of decaying plant material, manure, bacteria and living microorganism

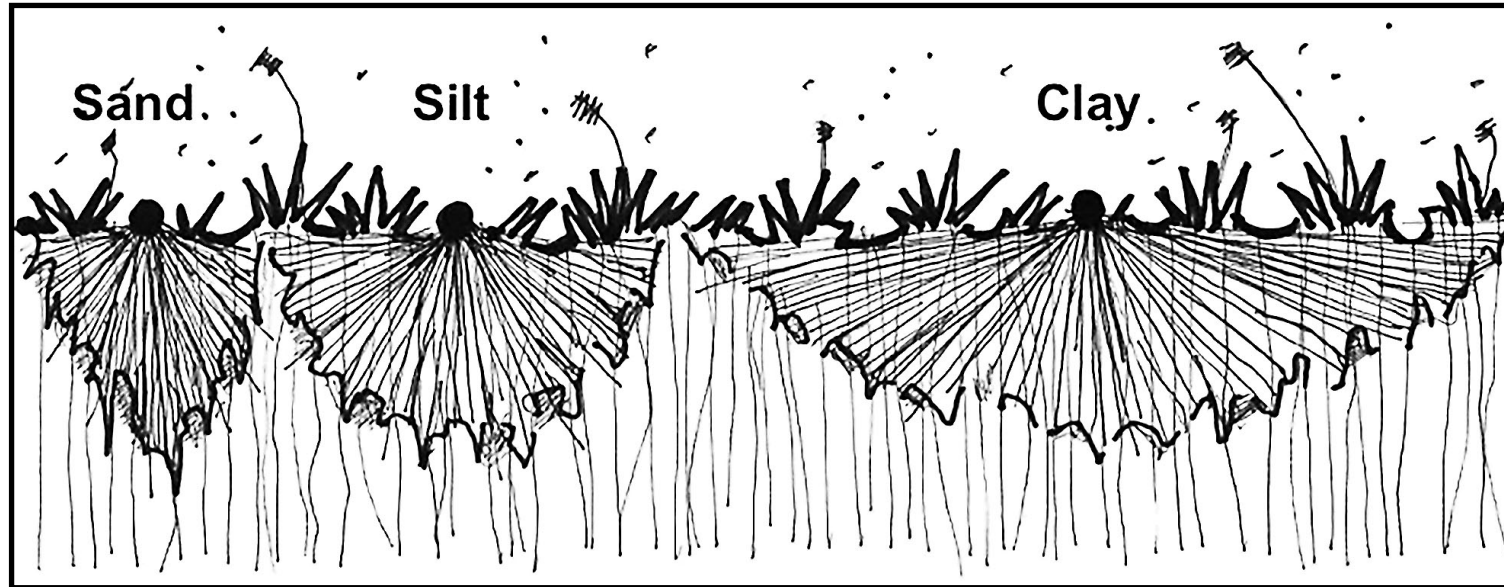


## **45% Mineral - Native Soil**

Loam, sand, silt, clay



# SOIL: EFFECTS OF IRRIGATION



Soil Type	Rates of Infiltration	Duration of Irrigation	Frequency Cycle	Spacing of Irrigation
Sand	Deep / Direct	More	Less	Closer
Clay	Shallow / Spread	Less	More	Distant

# SOIL: WHAT KIND TO USE?



For Potting Containers

Potting mix

For California Native Plant  
Landscapes

Only native soil

For Edible Plants in  
Planter Box or In-Ground

Organic compost  
amended soil

# GARDEN FUNDAMENTALS: IRRIGATION

- Drip Irrigation is Best
- Hydrozone Irrigation
- Weather-Based Irrigation Controller



*See SoCal Yard  
Transformation Book*



# GARDEN FUNDAMENTALS: IRRIGATION



*Inefficient*

*Efficient*



*See SoCal Yard Transformation Book*

# GARDEN FUNDAMENTALS: PLANT NEEDS & TIPS

- Environmental Needs
  - *Lighting*
  - *USDA Zone*
  - *Watering needs*
  - *Maturity space needs*
- Functional Needs
  - *What purpose will the plant serve?*
- Maintenance Needs
  - *Can you keep up with the mature plant?*





# GARDEN FUNDAMENTALS: PLANT NEEDS & TIPS

- Small-Size Plants
  - *Avoid root-bound plants*
- Vigorous Plants
  - *Healthy plant*





# GARDEN FUNDAMENTALS: FERTILIZER

- Inorganic Fertilizer
- Liquid or Granule Fertilizer
- Made from Minerals and Rock
  - *Do not apply over plants, on stem or trunk*
  - *Fertilizer can burn plants*
  - *Apply as indicated*



NITROGEN (N)	PHOSPHORUS (P)	POTASSIUM (K)
Leaf Growth Color Pigment	Root Development Flowers/Fruit	Overall Plant Recovery & Support

# GARDEN FUNDAMENTALS: FERTILIZER

- Organic Compost
  - *Decomposed plant and animal waste*
    - *Slow release*
    - *Does not burn plant*
    - *Can add at any time of year*
    - *Add as often as needed*
- Manure
  - *Non-meat-eating animal waste*
    - *Excellent nitrogen source*
    - *Best when solarized*
    - *Do not apply over plants, on stem or trunk*
    - *Fertilizer can burn plants*
    - *Apply as indicated*
- Bone Meal
  - *Ground animal bones*
    - *Slow release*
    - *Phosphorus and calcium*





# GARDEN FUNDAMENTALS: MULCH/AMENDMENTS/COMPOST

	MULCH	AMENDMENTS	COMPOST
DRY ORGANIC MATTER	*	*	*
MANURE		*	*
COFFEE GROUNDS		*	*
COMPOST TEA		*	*
PEAT MOSS		*	*
WORM CASTINGS		*	*
MICROBIAL AMENDMENTS		*	*
GYPSUM		*	
BONE MEAL /FERTILIZER		*	
PERLITE / VERMICULITE		*	
FOOD SCRAPS			*
GREEN ORGANIC MATTER			*



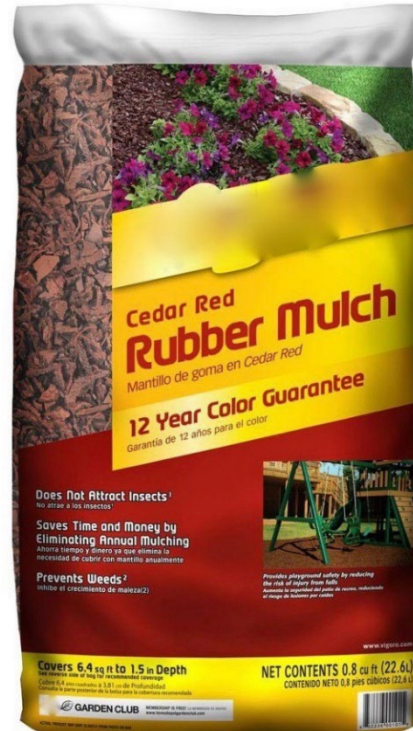
*Organic*



*Amendments*



# GARDEN FUNDAMENTALS: MULCH TIPS & WARNINGS



*Keep contaminated mulch or manure out of your garden*



# GARDEN FUNDAMENTALS: COMPOST TIPS

- Save Your Fall Leaves
  - *Use the lawnmower to reduce the bulk leaves size*
  - *Store the fall leaves in a plastic bag to compost in the spring*
  - *Add dry leaves to compost bin with spring greens*

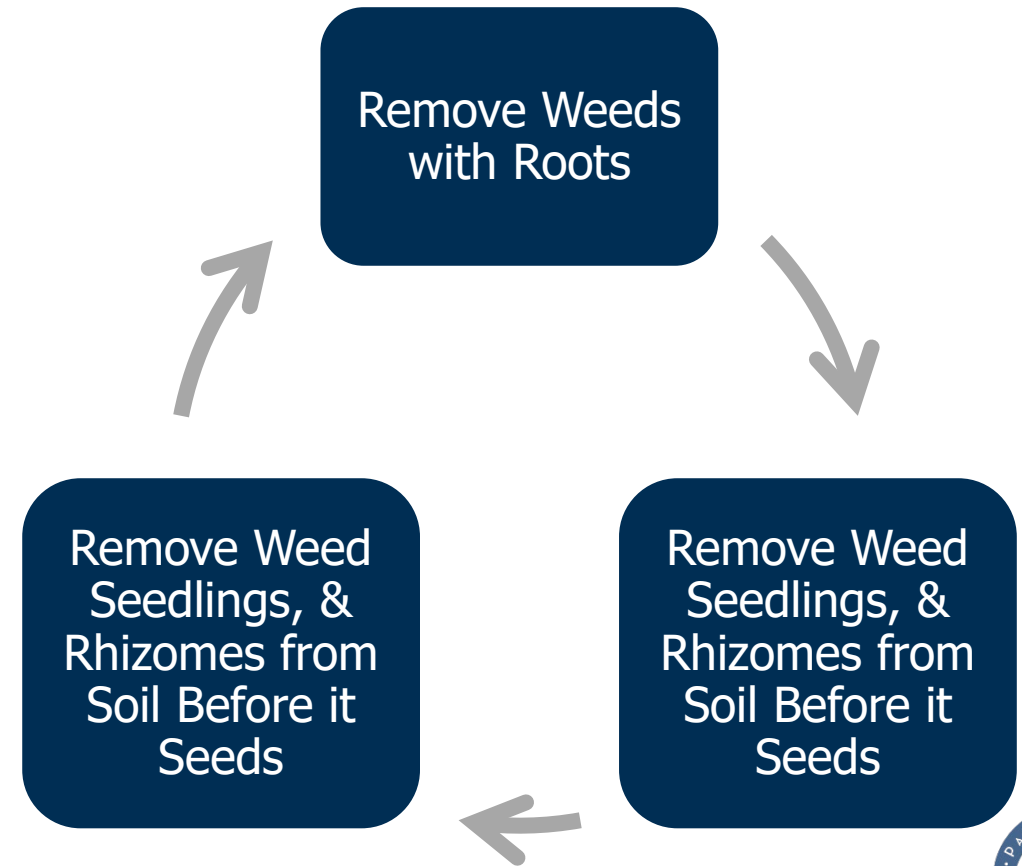


# FALL GARDEN MANAGEMENT



# GARDEN MANAGEMENT: WEED CONTROL

- Weeds
  - *Pull visible weeds*
  - *Never permit weeds to seed*
  - *Keep a bi-weekly schedule*
  - *Keeps weeds out of compost*
- Do Not Use
  - *Weed cloth or weed barrier*
  - *They do not block noxious weeds*
  - *The heat destroys the healthy microorganism in the soil*
- Slopes Can Collapse or Erode Under the Weed Cloth or Weed Barrier



# GARDEN MANAGEMENT: WEED CONTROL

- Weed Management
- Prevent, Control, and Eradicate
  - *Tools:*
    - *Weed wacker*
    - *Hula hoe*
    - *Hand pulling tools*
    - *Sod cutter*
  - *Solarize weeds/soil with plastic during hot weather*
  - *Cardboard to suppress weed growth*
  - *Chemical herbicide*
  - *Pre-emergent herbicide*

***Vinegar Weed Recipe: 1-gallon distilled vinegar + 1 cup salt + 2 tbsp dish soap***



*Do not put weeds in the compost pile*

# GARDEN MANAGEMENT: IRRIGATION

- East Valley Water District Outdoor Residential Watering Guidelines



Water between  
6:00pm and 6:00am



Don't irrigate for two days  
after measurable rainfall

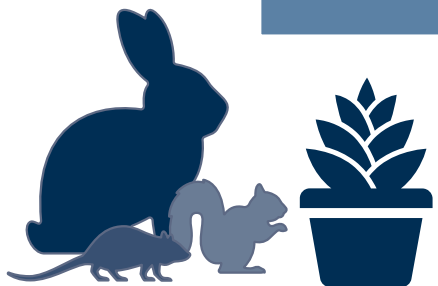
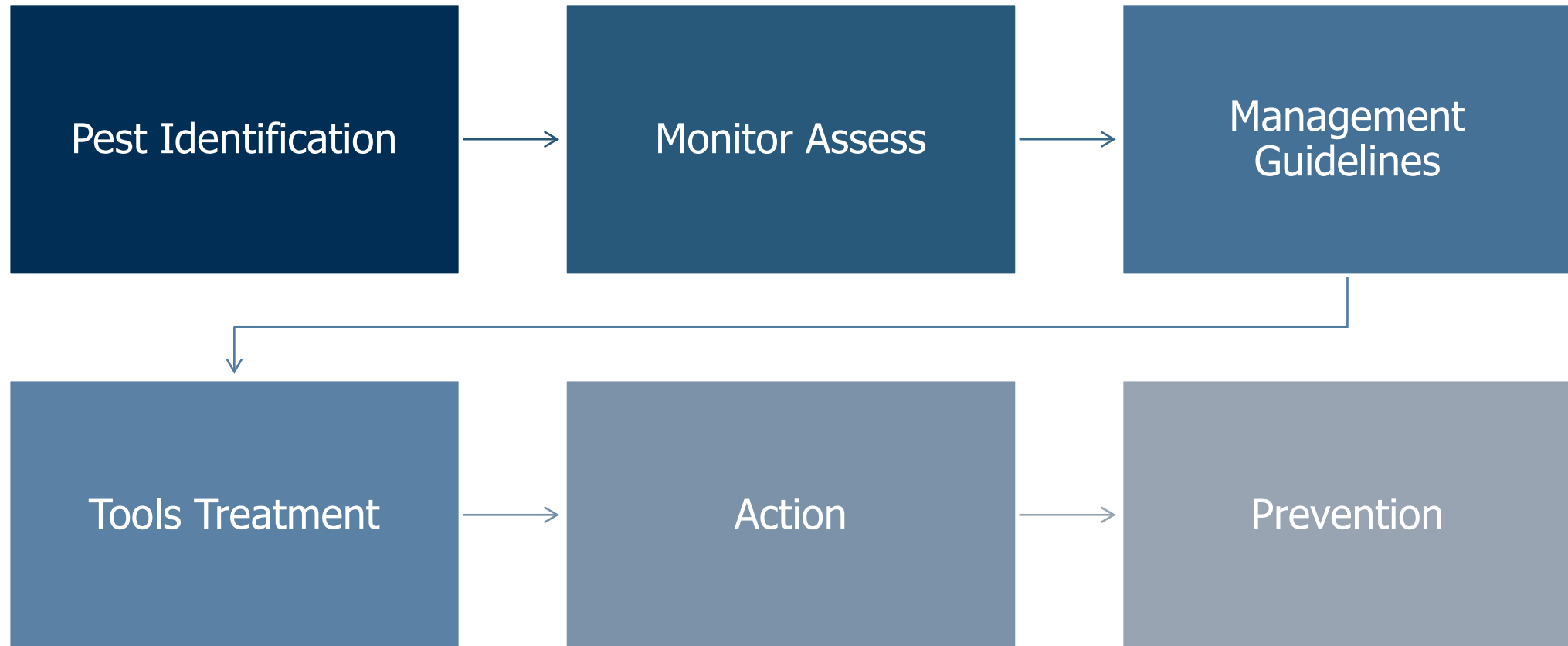


Water in three cycles of three  
to five minutes, with one hour  
between each cycle





# GARDEN MANAGEMENT: PLANT DISEASES & PEST CONTROL









# FALL GARDEN TASK

# GARDEN TASK



**Dial 811**

[www.DigAlert.org](http://www.DigAlert.org)  
Utility Conflicts with  
Overhead and  
Underground Lines  
100% Free Service

	<b>WHITE</b> Proposed Excavation Routes and Limits		<b>ORANGE</b> Telecommunications, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cable TV
	<b>PINK</b> Temporary Survey Markings		<b>BLUE</b> Potable Water
	<b>RED</b> Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables		<b>PURPLE</b> Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, and Slurry Lines
	<b>YELLOW</b> Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials		<b>GREEN</b> Sewer and Drain Lines



# GARDEN TASK

- Tool Maintenance
  - *Keep the tools clean*
  - *Keep the tools sharp*
  - *Discard or repair broken tools*
- Always Use The Correct Tool
  - *Do not compromise safety for convenience*
- Sanitize Garden Cutting Tools
  - *Isopropyl rubbing alcohol 50 - 70%*



# GARDEN TASK

- Pruning
  - *Trim, prune or remove plants that are:*
    - *Dead*
    - *Damaged*
    - *Diseased*
    - *Limit size*
- Maintaining Plants
  - *Limit size*
  - *Balance or maintain shape*
  - *Stimulates new growth\**
- Do Not Compose Diseased or Dead Plants



# GARDEN TASK

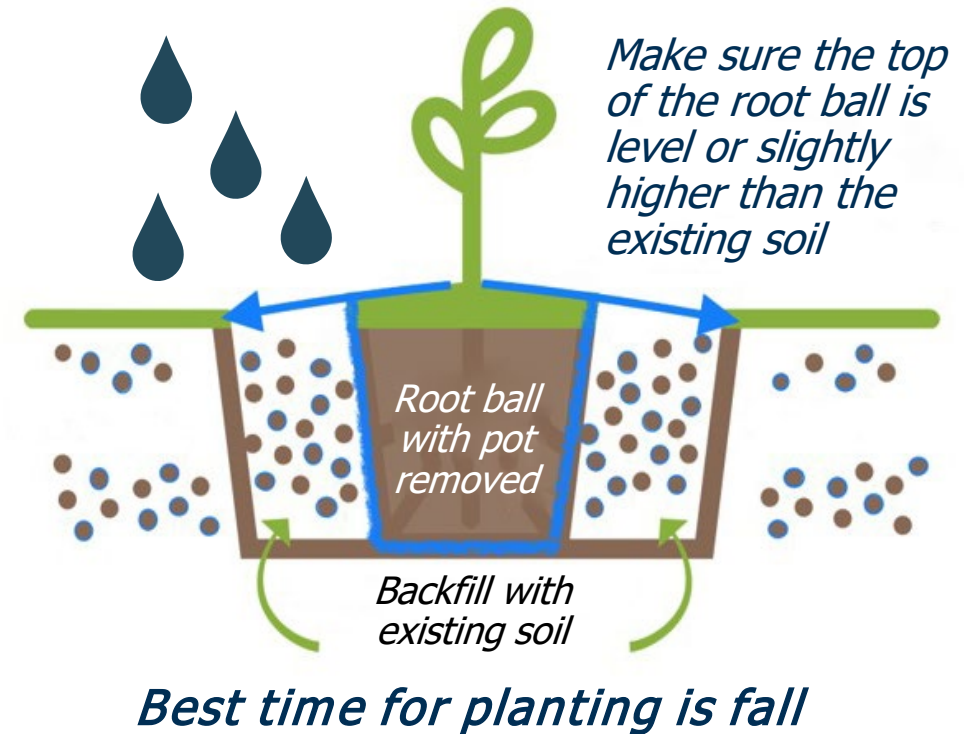
- Divide Plants
  - *Divide overcrowded plants*
    - *Moisten soil on plant*
    - *Use sharp garden tools*
    - *Split and divide plant*
    - *Relocate split or divided plants*





# GARDEN TASK

- Planting Tips
  - *Permit water to drain completely*
  - *Plants must be moist when planting*
- The Planting Hole
  - *Dig a hole 1.5 - 2x the pot diameter*
  - *Water hole & permit to absorb in native soil before planting*
- No Air Pockets
  - *Backfill with native soil only*
  - *Tamper soil to eliminate pockets of air*
- Planting during cooler parts of the day
  - *Reduce the heat stress of the plant by not planting on hot days*



# GARDEN TASK: FROST PROTECTION



# WEBSITE RESOURCES

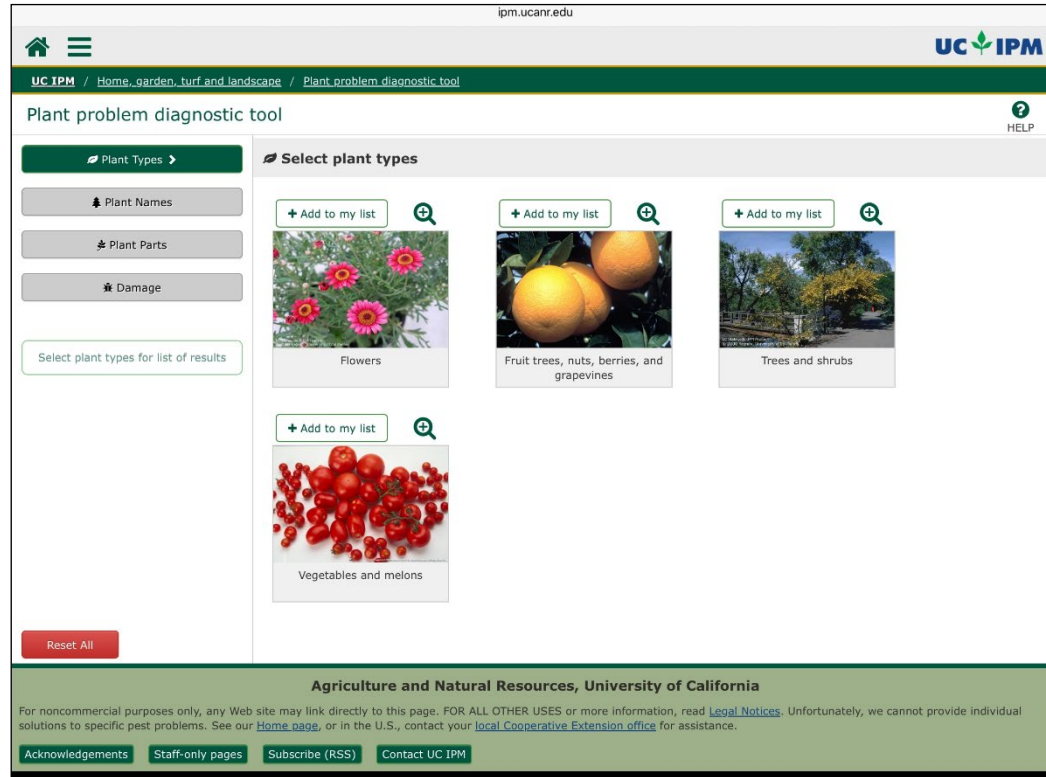


# RESOURCE BOOK

- Available Online
  - *English edition*
  - *Spanish edition*



# WEBSITE RESOURCES: PLANT DISEASES



<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/>



# WEBSITE RESOURCES: PESTS



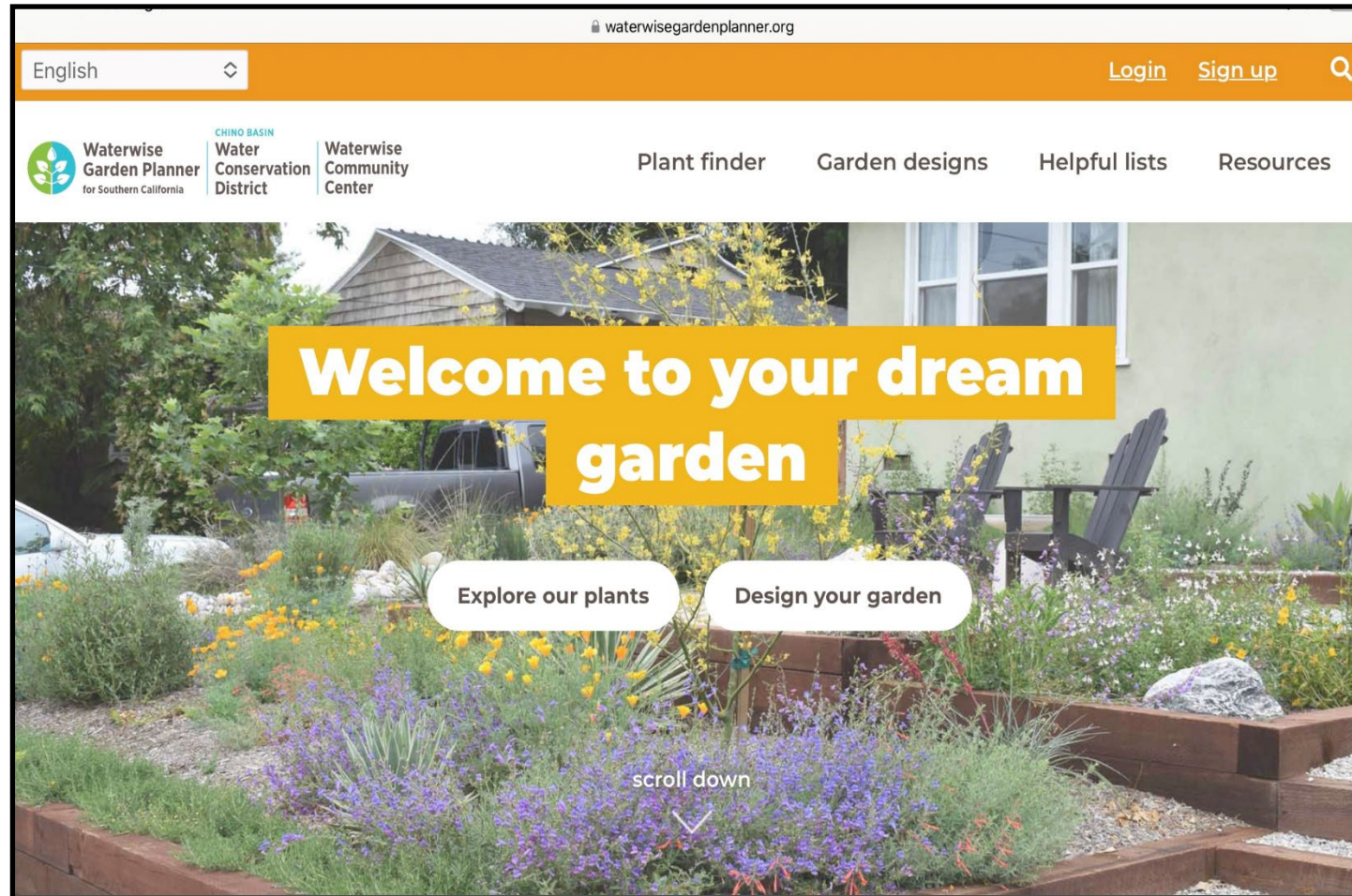
<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/>



*Animal burrow*



# WEBSITE RESOURCES: LANDSCAPE INSPIRATION



*[www.waterwisegardenplanner.org](http://www.waterwisegardenplanner.org)*

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

