Dear Friend,

We are very excited to provide you with the 5th edition of our Landscaping Lightly calendar. As we have all heard many times this year, the drought in the West is at historic levels but what is really encouraging is that due to the many education programs and public messaging on our water shortages, the public has taken notice and overall residential water usage is down by significant levels, up to 30% in certain cities. Major rebate programs such as the turf replacement programs from Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power and Metropolitan Water District were a huge success.

Governor Brown signed over 24 bills this year related to water programs and projects and local government and our water agencies are all rallying together to support water conservation and improved water quality. California is truly a special place, with beautiful mountains, beaches, and incomparable scenic views. The tips inside this calendar will help you to protect the natural resources that make this place so special.

The information in this calendar is a great way to keep water conservation tools close at hand. Inside this 2016 Landscaping Lightly calendar you will find fun illustrations, useful tips, and resources to inspire you to create and maintain landscapes that conserve water, protect open space, improve our urban diversity and even save you money.

This calendar was developed for you and your neighbors through a unique partnership between the Council for Watershed Health and the San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. From all of us, have a happy and healthy new year and thank you for all you are doing to keep Southern California beautiful and our watersheds resilient and healthy!

Sincerely,

Belinda V. Faustinos
Interim Executive Director | Council for Watershed Health
HARVEST THE RAIN

PROTECT OUR RIVERS
**Tips**

Harvesting the rain is a great way to keep polluted stormwater out of our rivers and oceans. By collecting and using rainwater in your landscape you can help the planet and lower your water bill!

Use rain barrels attached to your rain gutters to collect rain for later use. Be sure to use the collected water regularly; average-sized rain barrels can fill quickly even in small storms.

A 1000 square foot rooftop in Los Angeles produces on average more than 9000 gallons of water annually. For larger landscapes, consider using cisterns to store rainwater to use year-round! Visit [http://www.treepeople.org/sustainable-solutions-0](http://www.treepeople.org/sustainable-solutions-0) for more information.

Collect rain water from your roof by using rain gutters and directing your downspouts into designated areas of your garden.

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**NEW YEAR’S DAY**

Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday

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31
REUSE YOUR WATER

INSTALL A GREYWATER SYSTEM
Save water and money by using greywater to irrigate trees, shrubs, groundcovers and flower beds. Greywater is “wash water” from bathroom sinks, showers and washing machines.

Participate in a local workshop to learn about how to set up safe and approved greywater reuse systems. Visit www.greywateraction.org for more information.

Check current California Plumbing Code before moving forward with your plans. Permits are needed for some types of greywater systems.

The current greywater code, Title 24, Part 5, Chapter 16 can be found at www.hcd.ca.gov. Other greywater policy information can be found at www.greywateraction.org.

Pay special attention to what’s going down the drain! Use only detergents and cleaning products low in salts and free of boron. Your plants will thank you for it!

Sponsored by

Council For Watershed Health | www.watershedhealth.org
PLANT EDIBLE LANDSCAPES

GROW YOUR OWN FOOD
### Tips

Replace unused lawn with planter beds for growing fresh fruit and vegetables.

Line the bottom and sides of beds with two layers of chicken wire to keep out burrowing rodent and if deer, rabbits, and squirrels share your yard, securely net or fence edible landscapes.

If you live in an apartment or have limited space find a local community garden or try growing vegetables in large glazed clay or plastic pots.

Plant hardy fruit trees requiring less than three-hundred chill hours to ensure a bountiful harvest. Visit [www.davewilson.com/homegrown/homeindex1.html](http://www.davewilson.com/homegrown/homeindex1.html) for more information.

Contact groups like Food Forward to donate surplus fruits and vegetables and make a tax deductible donation or trade with your neighbors! Visit [www.foodforward.org](http://www.foodforward.org) for more information.

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### March 2016

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First Day of Spring

St. Patrick’s Day

Good Friday
Mulch is a blanket layer of organic or inorganic material applied to the soil surface or around plants to: conserve water, even out temperature, suppress weeds, reduce soil compaction, slowly release nutrients, and increase visual appeal.

Greenwaste mulch includes dried leaves, twigs, dried flowers, etc. that are the result of pruning and landscape management. No need to buy mulch at your local boxstore. Reduce greenwaste that is hauled off-site to the landfill by shredding your healthy prunings and keep it onsite. Do avoid weeds or insect-infested plant material that can contaminate your mulch.

Native plants evolved with lean soils and DO NOT need fertilizer. Mulch slowly decomposes at the soil surface and releases nutrients at a rate that native plants can absorb.

Keep mulch 4” from base of plants to keep them healthy; otherwise, this can harbor harmful insects, bacteria, and water will mold at the plant base leading to death.

Mulch can assist with winter cold spells as it decomposes at the soil surface and gives off heat during the decomposition process.
STALL 'TIL FALL
PLANT IN SEASON
### Tips

**Follow nature - Wait until November when temperatures fall and winter rains begin to install native plants.**

Planting in the summer when the soil is hot and dry decreases your chances of a successful landscape. Who wants to buy plants twice due to poor planning??

Most drought-tolerant California native plants want winter water and flourish best when planted when soils are cooler and moister.

If turf is removed or landscape planning proceeds, use summer months to design the landscape, prepare soil, remove/control weeds, install hardscape (pathways, birdbaths) and stormwater infiltration features.

Begin shopping your plant list at local native plant nurseries for purchase during the big fall plant sales.

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*Mother's Day*

*Memorial Day*

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*Cinco de Mayo*
PUT YOUR NATURE EYES ON
BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST
Get outside and take pictures of the plants and animals that live all over Los Angeles.

From the Los Angeles River to your yard, local park, or school grounds—there is nature all around us. Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County scientists need help documenting the plants and animals that live in these places. With your data, we can build a better city that works for humans and wildlife alike.

Grab your smartphone or digital camera and go take pictures. For plants, get pictures of flowers, fruits, leaves, and the whole plant. For animals, try to get in focus close-ups from different angles. Move towards the animal slowly taking pictures as you go.

Take lots of pictures, but only submit the best ones! Send your pictures to the L.A. Nature Map. E-mail them to nature@nhm.org. Or, post them to social media #natureinLA. Or, upload them directly to the map using the free iNaturalist mobile application.

For information on citizen science projects and events visit www.nhm.org/nature/citizen-science.

Sponsored by

JUNE 2016
STAY FIRE SAFE

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRES
If you live in a fire hazard area, learn how to create fire resistant structures and maintain a defensible space around your home. Visit www.ucanr.org/sites/SAFELandscapes for more info.

When landscaping, consult with your local fire department to make sure that your plant selection and spacing are fire safe.

Regularly clean debris from your roof and gutters to keep blowing embers from igniting structures.

Minimize flammable plants from within 30 feet of your house. Maintain individual trees and shrubs to keep them free of dead wood.

Create space between trees and shrubs located within 30-100 feet of your structure (200 feet if your local fire department requires it). Visit firecenter.berkeley.edu resources for more tips.

Start a local Fire Safe Council for your community to educate residents on how to protect their homes and neighborhoods from wildfire. Learn more about how you can join the over 100 Fire Safe Councils at www.cafiresafecouncil.org.

### July 2016

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Independence Day
PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS
Most plants don’t escape our gardens but the handful that do can displace native vegetation and greatly reduce biodiversity. When purchasing plants at the nursery make sure they are not the invasive type that can spread and cause problems. Visit www.plantright.org and www.weedwatch.org for more information.

Remove invasive weeds like mustard and thistles (pictured). Also control large, billowy invasive grasses, such as fountain grass and pampas grass; they are highly flammable and can quickly spread fire.

Visit www.cal-ipc.org/landscaping and www.weedwatch.org for the names and photos of plants that are invasive in your area.

Use a string trimmer (aka weedwacker) to cut invasive weeds to the ground before they flower and produce seed. This may take two or three trimmings in spring and summer each year.

Join volunteer efforts to control invasive plants in local parks and wildland areas. Visit www.volunteermatch.org to find events in your area.

Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy

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Council For Watershed Health | www.watershedhealth.org
CARE & MAINTAIN

PRUNE RIGHT FOR PLANT HEALTH
Check pruning times for your fruit trees; these times vary from other trees. Keep fruit trees 6 – 8 feet for safer thinning, netting and access to fruit (www.davewilson.com/video/diy_1.html).

Prune most Southern California native and Mediterranean plants from mid-summer to early-fall. Don’t prune natives in the winter or spring when most are active and growing.

Before pruning trees, check your City code. Oaks and some other native and specimen trees are often protected by law. Pruning without permits can result in significant fines.

Help nesting birds! Trim trees only when necessary and only when birds are not nesting. It is unlawful to needlessly destroy bird nests. See the LA Audubon Tree Trimming Guidelines: www.losangelesaudubon.org.

Hire reputable tree trimmers. Bargain and unlicensed tree trimmers can cause harm to your trees. Never “top” a tree. The resulting branches will be weak and the tree will become susceptible to high wind and pests & disease.
BUY LOCALLY NATIVE PLANTS
SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY

Theodore Payne Foundation

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION SERVING THE NATIVE FLORA OF CALIFORNIA SINCE 1938

10431 FORD SCOTT RD
PACIFIC COVE, CA 90230

WWW.THEODOREPAYNE.ORG

(818) 991-7423

@THEOPEAYNE
Locally native plants are those that occur naturally within a given area and are best adapted to local soil and climate.

Plants from further away can genetically contaminate local populations with less “fit” genes. Even within the same species, the seed source may be from areas that are coastal (moister/cooler) and may not be adapted to your local conditions, especially if it is drier/hotter.

Locally native plants support native wildlife which have evolved together over thousands of years.

Wildlife can’t usually make a living with drought-tolerant plants from other Mediterranean climates.

Ask your native plant nurseries if they have locally sourced native plants for your area (and their seed source) in order to build demand for locally native plants. Theodorepayne.org has an online plant inventory that lists seed origin so you can buy plants from your local mountains.
PLANT TREES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
To keep our urban forests diverse and healthy, plant California native trees like the coast live oak. Large native trees provide shelter, food, and habitat for native animals; they also make great play areas for children. Plant in the late fall or winter when cool weather will help ensure proper establishment.

Trim trees only when necessary and only when birds are not nesting. It is unlawful to needlessly destroy bird nests. See the Los Angeles Audubon Tree Trimming Guidelines: www.losangelesaudubon.org.

Hire reputable tree trimmers, and never top a tree; the resulting branches will be weak and the tree will become susceptible to high wind and pests & disease.

For a list of trees that are suitable to your region, visit the SelecTree App at selectree.calpoly.edu. If you need help identifying a tree, try out this easy-to-use app from Dr. Matt Ritter (www.baobabbotanical.com/Baobab/citytree.html).

Don’t transport firewood, it harbors dangerous pests. Burn firewood close to where you buy it. For more tips and a list of common tree pests in our area visit: www.firewood.ca.gov.
LEAVE NO TRACE

MINIMIZE YOUR IMPACT WHEN ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS
When exploring nature beyond your landscape, follow the Leave No Trace seven principles. A few are listed below, for more information visit: www.lnt.org.

Preserve the past. Examine, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them. Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.

Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect picnic areas and campsites for trash or spilled foods. Pack out ALL trash, leftover food and litter.

Minimize your campfire impacts. Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. Keep fires small. Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

Control your pets at all times, or leave them at home. Respect wildlife by observing them from a distance. Do not follow or approach them. Also, never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
CASH IN YOUR GRASS

WATERWISE GARDENS SAVE WATER AND MONEY
More than half of potable water is used in your yard. Take advantage of “cash for grass” rebates and replace your lawn with low water California native groundcovers and shrubs. To learn about rebates available in your area visit www.socalwatersmart.com.

Sheet mulching is an effective way to kill stubborn grasses over time. For sheet mulching instructions and videos plus more lawn conversion tips visit bayfriendlycoalition.org/LYL.shtml.

If you must keep a little grass, good low water alternatives include UC Verde buffalograss and Kurapia, or create a native grass meadow and add some native bulbs and wildflowers. For more great plants visit www.plantbook.com.

For more great tips pick up a copy of Reimagining the California Lawn: Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs. And when you are ready to pick out your plants, no book provides better information than Landscape Plants for California Gardens. Happy planting!
JANUARY - HARVEST THE RAIN
City of Los Angeles – Rainwater Harvesting Program, Homeowner’s How-To Guide
www.larainwaterharvesting.org
Green LA – Not Enough to Waste
www.notenoughtowaste.org
Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond by Brad Lancaster
www.harvestingrainwater.com
Surfrider Foundation – Ocean Friendly Gardens
www.surfrider.org/programs/entry/ocean-friendly-gardens
TreePeople – How to Capture Rainwater
www.treepeople.org/how-capture-rainwater

FEBRUARY - REUSE YOUR WATER
CA Plumbing Code (Title 24, Part 5, Ch. 16A, Part I)
www.hcd.ca.gov
Greywater Action
www.greywateraction.org
Greywater Harvesting – Brad Lancaster
www.harvestingrainwater.com/greywater-harvesting
Oasis Design
www.oasisdesign.net
Pasadena Water and Power Laundry-to-Landscape (L2L)
Greywater Workshops
www.PWPweb.com/greywater

MARCH - PLANT EDIBLE LANDSCAPES
Edible Landscaping by Rosalind Creasy
www.rosalindcreasy.com
Huntington Library and Botanic Gardens – The Ranch
www.huntington.org
Los Angeles County Arboretum – Events and Classes
www.arboretum.org
Los Angeles Community Garden Council
www.lagardencouncil.org
Los Angeles Master Gardener Training Program
celosangeles.ucdavis.edu
Sunset Western Garden Book of Edibles
www.sunset.com/garden

APRIL - LOVE YOUR GARDEN VERY MULCH
UC Master Gardener Program - The Importance of Mulch
www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFDqP_V4hcl
Bay Friendly Coalition Landscaping & Gardening Mulching Guide
Mother Nature’s Backyard - Understanding Mulches
mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/2012/07/understanding-mulches_23.html
City of Los Angeles - Bureau of Sanitation
Free Mulch Give-Away
www.lacitysan.org/srpcd/mulch_giveaway.htm

MAY - STALL TILL FALL
Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District - Wild About Natives
California Native Plant Society – Grow Native Program
www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative

JUNE - CITIZEN SCIENCE
iNaturalist app - California Academy of Sciences
www.inaturalist.org
eBird App - Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society
ebird.org/content/ebird
Nature Map of L.A.
www.nhm.org/nature/map
Citizen Science at Natural History Museum of LA County
www.nhm.org/nature/citizen-science

JULY - STAY FIRE SAFE
California Native Plant Society – Fire Safety
www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/resources.php
Center for Fire Research and Outreach
firecenter.berkeley.edu/resources
County of Los Angeles Fire Department Forestry Division
fire.lacounty.gov/forestry-division/forestry-fuel-modification/
California Fire Safe Council
www.cafiresafecouncil.org
UCCE - Sustainable and Fire Safe Landscapes
www.ucanr.org/sites/SAFELandscapes
ARTIST PROFILE

Ed Lum is a talented illustrator and painter whose work is reminiscent of early 20th Century travel posters and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) art of the 1930’s. He was born in 1966, is a fourth generation Chinese-American, and works out of his studio at the historic Monterey Trailer Park in Los Angeles.

Check out www.funkyjunkfarms.com to see more of his work. Contact Ed: Edlum711@yahoo.com.

OCTOBER - BUY LOCALLY NATIVE

- Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
  www.rsabg.org
- Theodore Payne Foundation
  www.theodorepayne.org
- Native Seed Resources Coalition
  http://www.watershedhealth.org/programsandprojects/native-seedsresources.aspx
- California Native Plant Society
  www.cnps.org

SEPTEMBER - CARE & MAINTAIN

- California Native Plant Society – Pruning Tips for Native Plants
  www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/pruning-keeping.php
- Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens by Betsey Landis, Ellen Mackey, Bart O’Brien
  www.cnps.org/store.php
- Dave Wilson Nursery – Backyard Orchard Culture Guide
  www.davewilson.com/homegrown/homeindex1.html
- International Society of Arboriculture – Find a Tree Care Service
  www.isa-arbor.com

NOVEMBER - PLAN FOR PLAY

- Center for Ecoliteracy
  www.ecoliteracy.org
- Children and Nature Network
  www.childrenandnature.org
- International Society of Arboriculture
  www.treesaregood.org
- North East Trees
  www.northeasttrees.org
- TreePeople
  www.treepeople.org
- Burn Safe Where You Are
  www.dontmovefirewood.org

DECEMBER - LEAVE NO TRACE

- Tips for Wilderness Visitors
  www.wilderness.org/blog/29-critical-leave-no-trace-tips-wilderness-visitors
- Sustainable Recreation
  www.wilderness.org/article/sustainable-recreation

JANUARY 2017 - TRADE IN YOUR TURF

- Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens Program
  www.surfrider.org/programs/entry/ocean-friendly-gardens
- Landscape Plants for California Gardens
  www.landdesignpublishing.com
- Reimagining the California Lawn: Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs
  www.cachumapress.com/catalog/california-lawn.html
To print this calendar and pass it onto a friend, visit www.landscapinglightly.com. Questions and correspondence can be sent to info@watershedhealth.org.