

**1. When did you start working on your landscape?**

I begin my landscape when I moved to my house in November 2008.

**2. What inspired/motivated you to re-do your landscape? How long did it take to complete your landscape?**

I am an entomologist who studies urban landscapes as wildlife habitats, so my landscape is an extension of my work. No garden, including mine, is ever complete.

**3. Did you experience any set-backs or delays while working on your yard?**

Lack of winter rain impacted plant establishment in some years and removal of street trees altered the sun and shade pattern in my yard, which necessitated plant changes.

**4. How would you describe your yard?**

California native plant urban wildlife habitat.

**5. Did you do it yourself, hire a professional, or a combination of both?**

Myself.

**6. What type of plants did you use? Did you have a design plan in mind when choosing plants?**

Mostly California natives with a few other Mediterranean climate plants along with other low-water plants. I did not make a design plan.

**7. Did you use any rebates that the city offers? Did you take a landscaping class?**

I received a rain barrel rebate. I teach landscaping classes.

**8. Do you have background experience in landscaping?**

Yes.

**9. Does your landscape use any pesticides? If the answer is no, how do you fight against pests?**

I used glyphosate to kill my lawn and make small glyphosate applications each year for difficult weeds. I do not use insecticides or fungicides and rely on natural pest control and good plant health. My only insect problem is obscure scale.

**10. How often do you water your yard? What system of irrigation do you use?**

Watering depends on winter rainfall. In years of normal rain, I water twice per summer, typically on July 4th and Labor Day weekends. Two beds of plants not native to California are watered about every 4 weeks. Raised bed vegetable plants are watered daily by drip irrigation. Watering is done by overhead sprinkler or soaker hose.

**11. Does your landscape attract birds and/or beneficial insects? If so, what kind have you seen? What part of your landscape does wildlife seem the most attracted to?**

Wildlife is most attracted to flowers and water sources. I have seen the following beneficial insects and birds:

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Insects | Birds |
|---------|-------|

|                         |                                  |                       |                        |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Honey bee               | Apis mellifera                   | Scrub jay             | Aphelocoma californica |
| Black-tailed bumble bee | Bombus melanopygus               | Great horned owl      | Bubo virginianus       |
| No common name          | Svastra obliqua                  | Barn owl              | Tyto alba              |
| No common name          | Mellisodes sp.                   | Gold finch            | Spinus tristis         |
| Valley carpenter bee    | Xylocopa sonorina                | House finch           | Haemorhous mexicanus   |
| Mountain carpenter bee  | Xylocopa tabaniformis            | White-crowned sparrow | Zonotrichia leucophrys |
| Sweat bee(s)            | Multiple species; not identified | Sparrows              | Species unknown        |
| Leafcutter bee(s)       | Multiple species; not identified | Anna's hummingbird    | Calypte anna           |
| Wool carder bee         | Anthidium manicatum              | Mourning dove         | Zenaida macroura       |
| Aphid parasitoid        | Species unknown                  |                       |                        |
| Preying mantid          | Species unknown                  |                       |                        |

**12. Did you have a budget set? Were you able to stay within that budget or did you go over/under?**

I did not have a budget.

**13. How much maintenance does your yard need now vs. before when it was a lawn?**

I never maintained my yard as a lawn since I began the conversion as soon as I purchased the house.

**14. Have you experienced any unforeseen issues with your remodeled yard?**

Unwanted invasive plants from my neighbor's yard have been a problem.

**15. Where did you get your plants?**

Listed in order of most to least plants purchased.

California Flora Nursery, Fulton

Green Acres Nursery and Supply, Sacramento

Cornflower Farms, Elk Grove

Home Depot, Woodland

Ace Hardware, Woodland

**16. Do you plan on expanding or making any more changes to your yard?**

Yes. No garden is ever finished.

**17. Why was the change from a green lawn worth it to you?**

Urban landscapes can be important wildlife habitat. I believe it is important to show this to others, which is why I have had my yard on garden tours.

***18. Anything else you would like to share? This could include any advice or lessons learned from working on your yard.***

I wish I had set up an underground water storage tank connected to my gutters that could be used for irrigation. My rain barrels don't save nearly enough water to last all summer.