

1. When did you start working on your landscape?

About 25 - 30 years ago.

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

We desired to re-do the front yard to reflect plants popular with old fashioned gardens originally, which eventually turned into a more drought tolerant one. It initially took a couple of months to kill off the Bermuda lawn, take a turf cutter and remove the sod and then use a leaf shredder to remove the soil from the sod. The old foundation shrubs were removed along with 8 large oleanders.

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

No.

4. How would you describe your yard?

I would describe this as a cottage garden.

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

Did this all myself.

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

Originally we had planted 66 antique and heritage roses planted along with perennials. The rose nursery had an undetected rose virus that resulted in our roses eventually declining and dying. These were replaced with bulbs and perennials along with old time favorite shrubs such as flowering quince, sweet mock orange, forsythia, lilac, lady banks rose and wisteria. The evolution since then has been for more drought tolerant species with something in bloom year round.

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

No.

8. Do you have background experience in landscaping?

No, have experience in agriculture which helped with irrigation and already had knowledge of landscape plants.

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

At this time foliar herbicides are used only occasionally. Most weeds are hand weeded as there aren't many anymore. Insects and diseases are not a problem.

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

Depends on the weekly Et. loss which is replaced anywhere from once a week to once every 10-14 days. The front strip has drought tolerant natives and is watered every 2weeks - 1month. Drip has always been used and our system was replaced about 5 years ago as the original was

too old to service. Sprinklers were added to wet areas maybe once a month during the hot time of year to help with the drip wetted area pattern.

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?

The yard attracts doves and especially hummingbirds. Beneficial insects are present but moreover in addition to honeybees, there exists a good diversity of native bees.

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

No budget as this has been going on for a long time.

13. Anything else you would like to share. This could include any advice or lesson's learned from working on your own yard that you would like to share.

I cannot emphasize enough to folks wanting to change a typical yard is to plan ahead at least one year to deal with the possible weeds prior to re-landscaping. It is also real important to keep up with weeding to prevent the formation of new weed seeds and the competition to the new plants. Maintenance of weeds then becomes easier each year.