

Replace Your Thirsty Lawn

Removing your lawn and replacing it with plants that require less water and maintenance is the most effective way to reduce outdoor water consumption. The good news is that you can still have lawn-like areas by installing walkable alternatives to turf grass that can reduce water consumption by 50%-80%.

To help reduce costs in eliminating your thirsty lawn, So Cal Water\$mart offers rebates to replace turf and convert sprinklers. Check the So Cal Water\$mart website for current rebate offerings and program requirements.

Clustered Field Sedge *Carex praegracilis*

Carex praegracilis (clustered field sedge), perennial, variable, 6-12 inches tall along the coast and 2 feet tall in inland mountain meadows. Glossy, narrow, grasslike, green leaves and small, inconspicuous flowers in spring. Spreads by rhizomes to form a rough turf. Native to moist and seasonally wet places in much of North America except for the southeastern United States and northeastern Canada. Cool sun to light shade, most soils, including periodically flooded. Summer dormant if grown dry. Low-growing forms may be offered as *C. pansa*, a similar and related plant.

Sunset: 7-9,11-24.



Kurapia *Lippia nodiflora* 'Kurapia'

Lippia nodiflora 'Kurapia' (Kurapia), 1-2 inches tall and spreading aggressively to form a dense carpet, with small, oval, lightly toothed, medium green leaves and small clusters of tiny, white or pinkish white flowers in summer. Species is native to tropical and subtropical regions from the southern United States to northern Brazil. 'Kurapia' is offered as a low-water lawn alternative. Sun to part shade, most soils. Planted areas can be edged to control spread.

Sunset: 8-24

Desert Willow *Chilopsis linearis*

Chilopsis linearis (desert willow), deciduous shrub to small tree, often multitrunk, fast-growing to 15-30 feet tall and 10-20 feet wide, with long, narrow, green to gray-green leaves and clusters of fragrant, trumpet-shaped, pink to white or purplish flowers from spring to fall. Long, narrow seedpods hang from the tree into winter. Native to sandy or rocky soils in deserts of southern California to northern Mexico and east to western Texas. 'Burgundy' has gray-green leaves and deep purple flowers. Best in hot-summer, mild-winter climates. Full sun, well-drained soils. Sunset: 3b,7-14,18-23

This attractive tree is planted in the turf alternative areas of the Sustainability Garden.

