

# SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING FOR BUSINESSES



## DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE TIPS

When greening your business, remember to look inside and out. It's easier than you think to keep your grounds attractive and your environmental impact low. Sustainable landscaping can help you save money, rely less on chemical fertilizers or pesticides, reduce landscaping waste, and create a safe environment.

Try some of the following sustainable landscaping design and maintenance tips to keep your landscaping and business environmentally friendly:

### 1. PLANT THE RIGHT PLANT IN THE RIGHT PLACE

- a. **Use drought-tolerant species**, or plants that occur naturally in a given area. They are adapted to our unique climate and soil conditions. As a result, they generally require less maintenance, pest control, and watering.
- b. **Work with what you have.** Choose plants that are suited to your conditions (e.g., sun, moisture, soil, etc.). A shade plant will never flourish in the sun, and may require excess water and nutrients to survive. Remember to group plants with similar water requirements.
- c. **Don't plant a pest.** Invasive plants can get out of control and spread. Avoid ivy, ice plant and periwinkle.

Visit [www.BayFriendly.org](http://www.BayFriendly.org) to find out about plants suitable for communities near the bay.

For information on other invasive plants, visit [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org).

### 2. WATER WISELY

- a. **Use drip irrigation whenever possible.** Drip irrigation applies water to plants slowly for better absorption, leaving your plants healthy and well watered without supplying extra water in the surrounding area to support weed growth.
- b. **Water in the morning or late afternoon on hot days** to allow plants enough time to absorb moisture before it evaporates in the heat. This will conserve water and keep your plants healthier.

- c. **Don't over-water.** Excess water is wasteful, and feeds weeds.

Visit [www.flowstobay.org](http://www.flowstobay.org) to learn more about how to use water wisely and ensure that our Bay stays clean.

### 3. KEEP YARD TRIMMINGS OUT OF THE LANDFILL

- a. **Compost.** Composting is nature's process of recycling decomposed organic material into a rich, dark soil called compost. If your business generates organic material, consider participating in a local program.
- b. **Grasscycle to keep your lawn healthy.** Simply leave grass clippings on the lawn and allow the lawn's valuable nutrients to cycle back into the soil.
- c. **Contact your local waste hauler** to see if yard trimmings collection is available, or take yard waste to a recycling center. You'll reduce your waste and may save money on your garbage bill.

Learn more about yard waste and other organics in our waste stream at:

[www.RecycleWorks.org/sustainability](http://www.RecycleWorks.org/sustainability), click on "Sustainable Landscaping;" or [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics).

Check out the Recycling Search on the home page of [www.RecycleWorks.org](http://www.RecycleWorks.org) or [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/ConDemo](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/ConDemo) to find a place to recycle common landscaping materials.

#### QUESTIONS?

Visit [www.RecycleWorks.org](http://www.RecycleWorks.org)  
or call (888)-442-2666



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## CONTINUED

### 4. NIP WEEDS IN THE BUD

- a. **Mulch frequently around plantings** to reduce the space for weeds to grow.
- b. **Weed early.** Weeds are much easier to control before they are established or go to seed.
- c. **Build good soil through composting** to make weeding easier and plants stronger.
- d. **Use dense ground cover or thick foliage to shade out weeds.**
- e. When paving, **place several layers of roofing paper or building materials down before paving** to prevent future weeds.

For a fact sheet on how to control weeds, visit [www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org) and click on “Fact Sheets” and then select “Weeds.”

### 5. REUSE

- a. **Use leftover materials** like scrap lumber and broken concrete in your landscaping. Scrap lumber can be transformed into a rustic fence and broken concrete pieces become a quaint walkway when moss or other plants are planted between pieces. Not only will you have a unique look, but you’ll also be giving valuable materials a second life.

Visit [www.BuildItGreen.org](http://www.BuildItGreen.org) to find companies near you that sell landscaping materials made from recycled materials.

### 6. CONTROL PESTS NATURALLY

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) allows businesses to control pest naturally with few or no pesticides.

- a. **Plant pest-resistant plants** to control pests before they appear.
- b. **Keep plants well pruned and healthy** so that they can ward off pests naturally.
- c. **Know when to act.** Sometimes natural predators or cycles will eliminate a problem on their own without the aid of chemical pesticides.
- d. **If pesticide use is necessary,** opt for the least toxic products first.

TOXICITY	LABEL SAYS
Lowest	Caution
↓	Warning
↓	Danger
Highest	Danger – Poison

The goal is to control pests, not eliminate them entirely. Pests at low levels can be daily dinner for other beneficial insects we want around.

The following resources have additional information and resources for controlling pests naturally:

- [www.RecycleWorks.org](http://www.RecycleWorks.org)
- [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)
- [www.birc.org](http://www.birc.org)
- [www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org)
- [www.BayFriendly.org](http://www.BayFriendly.org)
- [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)
- [www.ecowisecertified.org](http://www.ecowisecertified.org)
- [www.papaseminars.com](http://www.papaseminars.com)

