

2013 Water Wise Garden Contest Winner



Christine Nolte of Santa Barbara has been awarded the Water Wise Garden Contest City of Santa Barbara first place award and the Santa Barbara Countywide grand prize for her beautiful and sustainable front yard. Christine, a graduate of the Green Gardener Program, designed her garden to attract butterflies and native pollinators, as well as capture the runoff from her roof to reduce the amount of potable City water she has to use to water her plants. Combining mostly drip irrigation with a few sprinklers for the high traffic parkway, she is able to irrigate her garden with very little water.

Christine took advantage of the City's Smart Landscape Rebate last year and pulled out her old high-water using lawn and junipers. She designed her new garden herself, complete with a wide variety of water wise and native plants, permeable pavers, efficient irrigation, a monarch butterfly garden, and a drywell to percolate roof runoff into the soil. Christine also carefully monitors her sprinkler timer and sets the watering times to vary with the seasons so her plants are never over-watered. As part of her contest winnings, Christine was awarded a nursery gift certificate and a beautifully engraved sandstone boulder to display in her front yard.



The first annual WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest was launched this spring to celebrate attractive and water efficient residential gardens in Santa Barbara County. With 2013 proving to be among the driest years in recent decades, this garden contest is a timely way to promote water conservation and recognize those residents who are doing their part to be water efficient while maintaining beautiful landscaping. In Santa Barbara, an average of fifty percent of the water used in a home goes toward landscape irrigation. Water wise gardens demonstrate that a landscape

can include lush plantings and flowers, attract wildlife, are easy to maintain, and also save money on water bills. There are dozens of easy ways to make a garden more water efficient, visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterWise.org to learn more. Let's Save Together!