

Making Water Wise Changes
... when you have little change to spare



WISE INVESTMENT. ATTRACTIVE RETURNS.

719.534.9960 / info@waterreturns.org / waterreturns.org

Ground We'll Cover

- 🍃 Why be Water Wise
- 🍃 Wise Use of ALL Sources of Water
- 🍃 Soil Matters
- 🍃 Edible Landscapes
- 🍃 Converting Sod to Native Grass
- 🍃 Planting, Pruning & Mowing
- 🍃 Planning & Managing Projects

Why be Water Wise

- 🍃 Water Supply & Demand
- 🍃 Roughly 50% of Total Consumption is Outside Home
- 🍃 30% reduction thru Sustainable Landscape Practices
- 🍃 Variety - More Color, Form & Texture Options
- 🍃 Drought Tolerant
- 🍃 Property Value



Wise Use of ALL Sources of Water

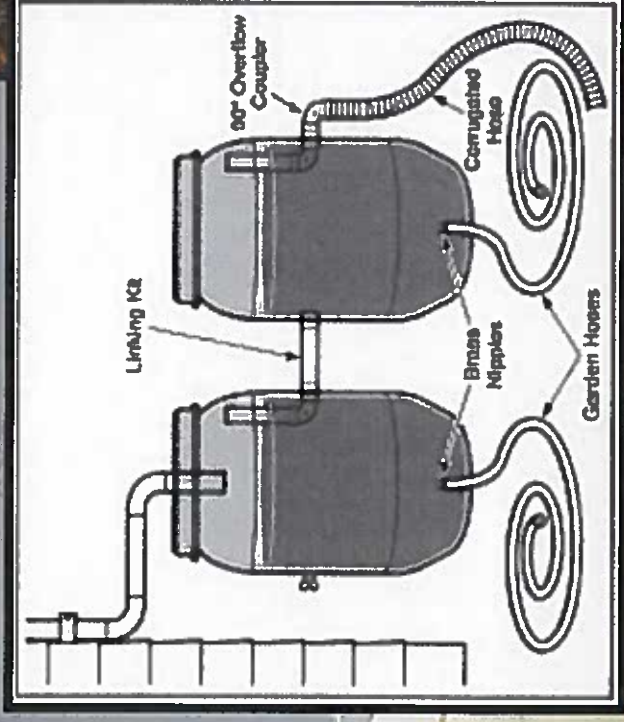
An Efficient Irrigation System

- 🍃 Often 40% (or more) Excess Water is Applied
- 🍃 Check, Clean, Adjust & Repair Sprinkler Heads
- 🍃 Comprehensive Evaluation - Pressure, Leaks, Distribution, Uniformity
- 🍃 Irrigation Controller - Initial Setting & Enviro Adjustments

Wise Use of ALL Sources of Water

Rain Barrels

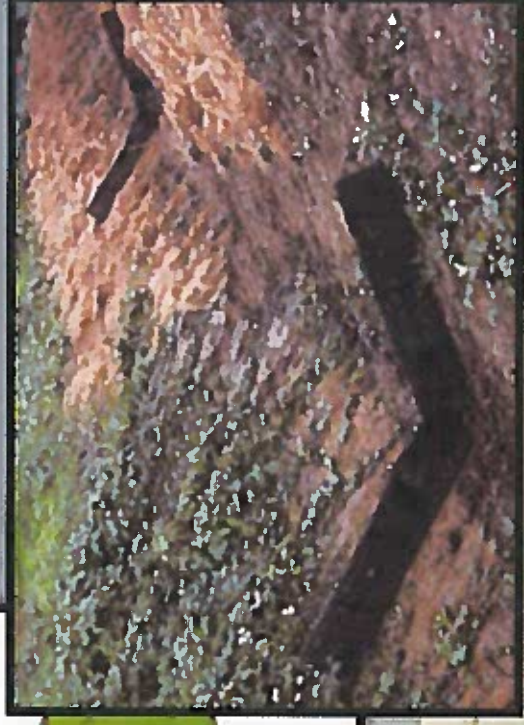
- It's Legal (two 55 gal barrels)
- Best Water on Planet!
- Cost Effective & Eco-Wise Option
- Mitigate Erosion Downstream
- Purchasing, Installing & Screening



Wise Use of ALL Sources of Water

Earth Shaping

- 🍃 Swales – direct flow perpendicular to grade
- 🍃 Check Dams - slow flow, prevent rushing water
- 🍃 Catchment Basins – stop and sink flow where appropriate



Soil Matters

Get to Know Your Soil

- 🌱 Soil Structure – Mason Jar Test
Sand, Silt, Clay, and Organic Matter
- 🌱 Compaction
- 🌱 Moisture Retention
- 🌱 What's Your Soil's Story?



Soil Matters

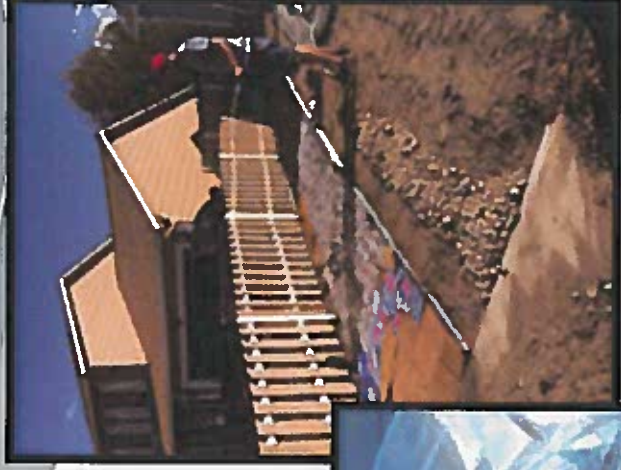
Building Great Soil – Lasagna Gardening

- Scrape Down Grade – make space for material
- Layer Organic Matter & Soil Amendment – over existing soil
- Keep Moist – accelerate break-down
- Add Composting Worms – speed up process
 - regular wigglers vs earthworms

Mulch: 2-3" Wood Chips, Straw
4-6" of Cured Compost, Topsoil or Garden Soil
Browns
Greens
Browns
Greens: Veg Scraps, Manure, Grass Clippings, Worm Casings, Hay, Compost, Coffee Grounds
Browns: Straw, Fall Leaves, Shredded Paper, Pine Needles, Wood Chips
Wet Sheets of Cardboard or Newspaper
Soil Amendments: Gypsum, Peat Moss, Bone Meal, Blood Meal, Coconut Coir, Rock Dust, etc.

Soil Matters

Building Great Soil – Lasagna Gardening



Soil Matters

Bringing Your Soil Back to Life

- 🍃 Stop Damaging –
Compaction, Chemical Applications & Drought
- 🍃 Start Building –
Lasagna Garden, Mulch, Mulch, Mulch, Till In Compost & Aerate
- 🍃 Re-Introduce Life –
Compost, Compost Tea, Manure

Soil Matters

Actively Aerated Compost Tea - AACT

- Highly Concentrated Brew –
Beneficial bacteria, fungi and trace minerals
- Brewed as Follows –
Dechlorinated Water
Add Microbiology (manure, compost, worm castings)
Add Kelp Meal & Molasses for Bacteria and Fungi.
Aerate for 12-24 Hours and Use
- Spray on Leaves, Pour on Soil &/or Dilute w/Dechlorinated Water

Soil Matters

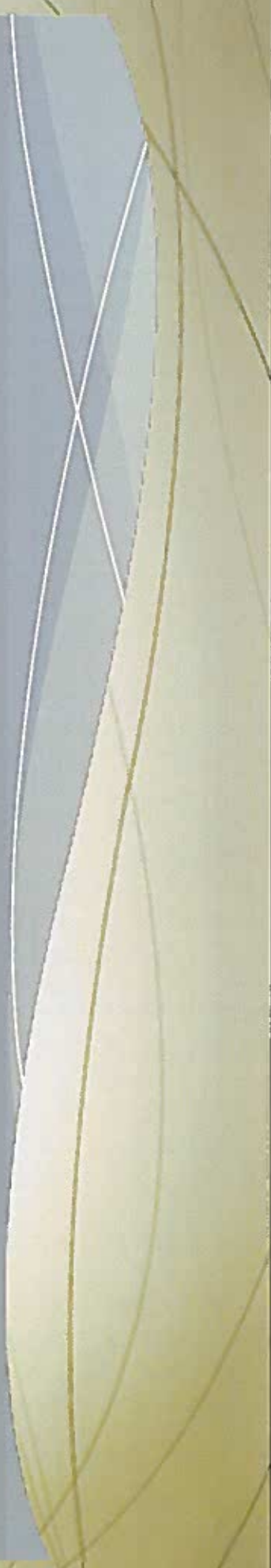
The Real Scoop on Fertilizing

- 🍃 Fertility Naturally Built by Microbiology – Who Fertilizes an Old Growth Forest?
- 🍃 Difference Between Natural & Manmade Landscapes – Landscape Fabric, Rock mulch, Plant Debris, Water Flow
- 🍃 Feed the Microbiology that Feeds Your Plants – Natural Mulch, Chop n’Drop
- 🍃 Do fertilize, AND BUILD SOIL Fertility

Edible Landscapes

A Fresh Approach

- Not Limited to Vegetable Garden Anymore
- Contributes to All Seven Elements of Art Form
- Rewards Better than Bluegrass!



Edible Landscapes – Veggie Gardens

- Start Small & Leafy
- Tomatoes and Peppers
are Toughest
- Can be Raised Beds for
Ease of Caring & Access



Edible Landscapes – Protection from Nature Itself

- 🍃 Season Extenders
- 🍃 Frost Protection
- 🍃 Hail Protection
- 🍃 Animal Protection



Edible Landscapes – Pollinators

- 🍃 Essential for Food Production!
- 🍃 Worldwide Bee Shortage
- 🍃 Neonics and Glyphosate Part of Problem



Converting Sod to Native Grass – Overview of Steps

- Selecting Area – Irrigation Considerations
- Selecting Grass Variety
- Preparing the Ground
- Spreading the Seed
- Irrigation - Establishment Period – “Follow the Root”
- Ongoing Irrigation & Maintenance

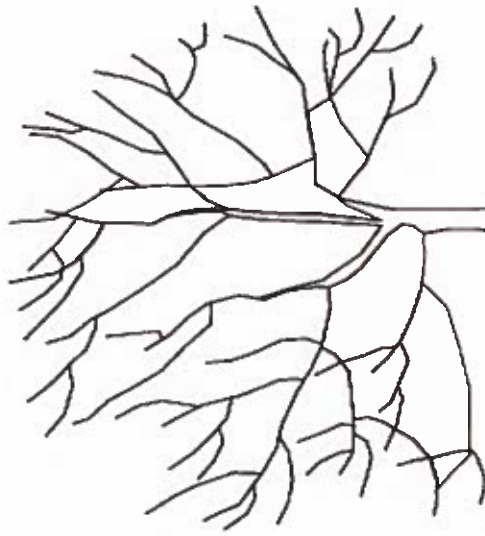
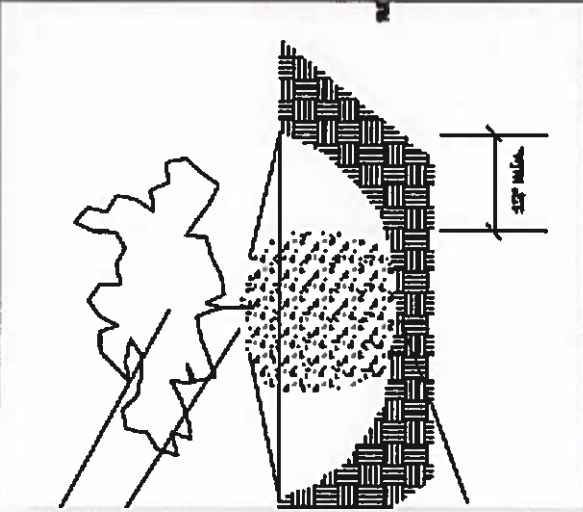


Converting Sod to Native Grass -

Before & After Example - Sheep Fescue



Planting, Pruning & Mowing



CHECK FOR TRUNK FLARE AND
CHECK SOIL LEVEL IN ROOT BALL
BACKFILL WITH AMENDED SOIL

REMOVE BURLAP AND WIRE FROM THE UPPER
2/3 OF ROOT BALL AFTER TREE IS SET

DIG THE HOLE THE SAME
DEPTH AS THE ROOT BALL

DIG THE HOLE THREE TIMES
THE SIZE OF THE ROOT BALL

PLACE THE ROOT BALL ON UNDISTURBED SOIL
COMPACT SOIL AROUND THE BOTTOM FOR STABILITY

Planting, Pruning & Mowing - When & How Much



Planting, Pruning & Mowing - When & How Much



Planning & Managing Projects

- 🍃 Assessment
- 🍃 Planning
- 🍃 Implementation

Making Water Wise Changes
... when you have little change to spare



WISE INVESTMENT. ATTRACTIVE RETURNS.

719.534.9960 / info@waterreturns.org / waterreturns.org