

TIM'S TIPS FOR ECOLOGICAL GARDENING

Think Globally, Plant Regionally (the [California Floristic Province](#) (CFP))

[FALL is for gardening](#) (despite the advertisements!)

[Site Prep is the Key Step](#) - remove lawn, weeds, man-made debris; and install landscaping features such as large boulders, hills & dells, and/or hardscaping to “[set the stage](#)” for your native plant community.

Soil is the Soul: [Leave the Leaves](#), [make compost](#) from food scraps & [coffee grounds](#). DON'T BUY [PEAT MOSS](#) and lay-down your [gas-powered](#) leaf-blowers.

Right plant, right place: micro-climates and landscaping constraints - sun exposure, soils, drainage, utility lines (overhead & underground).

Formulate [Goals & Themes](#) for your “planting palette”.

Prioritize multi-purpose species to maximize [fragrance](#), [function](#) (wildlife support), and [floristics](#) (4-season flowering).

[Strive for habitat complexity](#): naturalistic appearance, species diversity, layers of canopy (front to back & top to bottom), and intertwined branches.

Ethical sourcing: [Tree of Life Nursery](#) and [Theodore Payne](#) are both great!

You have more water than you think! [Graywater](#) & [Rain Barrels](#).

Early Action on [Weed Control](#): NO SEEDS FROM WEEDS!

Your garden will show you what it wants to be! Continuous improvements through garden editing & filling the gaps.

Add [water features](#) and a [hot pepper suet feeder](#) to bring the birds!

Buy [birds-be-safe](#) collars for your cat (and your neighbor's too!).

RESIST the temptation to install [landscape lighting](#) - [DarkSky International](#).

Learn Pruning Techniques: remove branches that are weakly attached, crossing, dead, and growing from the root crown (suckers) - guides from [NCSU](#) & [UNM](#).

More Tim's Tips [online](#): garden profile, plant list, and in-depth information.