

ENJOY YOUR VISIT. LEARN TO CONSERVE.

Welcome to the **At Home in Carolina** “water wise” garden exhibit. A collaborative project of PWC and Cape Fear Botanical Garden, this exhibit is more than a “pretty place” to visit at the Botanical Garden. It’s also a demonstration garden designed to show how you, too, can have beautiful landscaping that requires minimal watering.

Water wise gardening uses water efficiently without sacrificing beauty or function. As part of our conservation efforts at PWC, we’ve teamed up with the Botanical Garden to establish this special exhibit. By utilizing the techniques on display, any home in our region can create attractive landscaping that also conserves water.

Plant Selection

In addition to following the water wise gardening techniques outlined in this brochure, it is important to choose the right plants. You may be surprised by how many plants that grow well in the Cape Fear region require very little supplemental water after their initial grow in. On the back, you’ll find a list of the plants we’ve used in the water wise garden, along with a “rating” (A, B, C) of their water requirements. This will help you decide what plants to use and where to plant them, as you should group plants together according to their need for water (as well as sunlight).

Water Wise Garden Plant List
Plants are labeled throughout the Garden.

| COMMON NAME | BOTANICAL NAME | WATER USAGE |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| TREES | | |
| Flowering Apricot | Prunus mume ‘Peggy Clark’ | A B C |
| Chinese Fringe Tree | Chionanthus retusus | A B |
| Muskogee Crape Myrtle | Lagerstroemia x ‘Muskogee’ | A B C |
| SHRUBS | | |
| Sasanqua Camellia | Camellia sasanqua | A B |
| Wax Myrtle | Myrica cerifera | A B C |
| Cleyera | Ternstroemia gymnanthera | A B |
| Latifolia Holly | Ilex latifolia | A B C |
| G.G. Gerbing Azalea | Rhododendron indica ‘G.G.Gerbing’ | A B |
| Prague Viburnum | Viburnum pragense | A B C |
| Anthony Waterer Spirea | Spiraea bumalda ‘Anthony Waterer’ | A B C |
| Nandina | Nandina domestica | A B C |
| Fortune Tea Olive | Osmanthus x fortunei | A B C |
| Nellie R. Stevens Holly | Ilex x ‘Nellie R. Stevens’ | A B C |
| Soft Touch Holly | Ilex crenata ‘Soft touch’ | A B |
| GROUND COVERS & PERENNIALS | | |
| Varigated Liriope | Liriope muscari ‘John Burch’ | A B C |
| Majestic Liriope | Liriope muscari ‘Majestic’ | A B C |
| Evergreen Liriope | Liriope ‘Evergreen Giant’ | A B C |
| Hosta | Hosta x ‘Elegans’ | A B |
| Stella d’Oro Daylily | Hemerocallis x ‘Stella d’Oro’ | A B C |
| Lenten Rose | Helleborus orientalis | A B |
| Coral Bells | Heuchera x ‘Plum Pudding’ | A B C |
| Black-Eyed Susan | Rudbeckia fulgida ‘Goldsturm’ | A B |
| Salvia | Salvia microphylla ‘San Carlos Festival’ | A B C |
| TURFGRASS | | |
| Emerald Zoysia | | A B |

Water usage zone refers to the amount of water usage the plant can adapt to.

A=Regular Irrigation

B= Moderate, Occasional Irrigation

C= Low, No Irrigation

(Source: “Xeriscape A Guide To Developing A Water-Wise Landscape,” Cooperative Extension Service, The University of Georgia, College of Agriculture & Environmental Science)

The Cape Fear Botanical Garden
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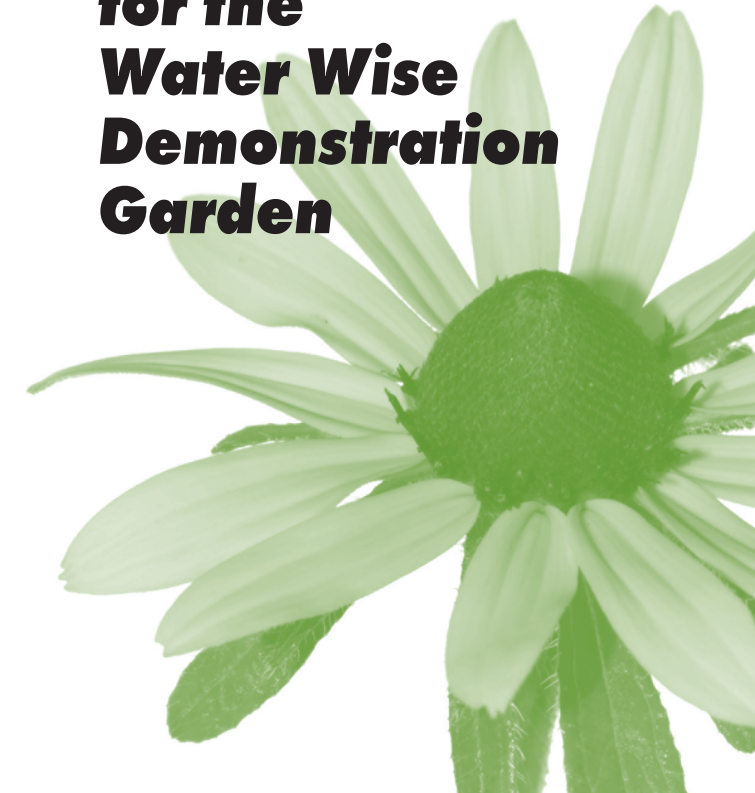
For more information on conserving water, visit PWC online at www.faypwc.com.

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Green Thumbs Up!

for the Water Wise Demonstration Garden



A PARTNERSHIP OF
PWC & THE CAPE FEAR
BOTANICAL GARDEN

Water Wise Gardening Techniques

Following is an explanation of the water wise landscaping techniques on display in the *At Home in Carolina* water wise garden. Using any one of these steps will reduce the need for watering in your yard. The more steps you incorporate, the more water wise your landscaping becomes.

Proper Planning

Smart planning begins with site selection and orientation. We selected the site for this water wise garden to take advantage of the partial shade provided by the mature pines. The shade keeps the yard cooler, thus reducing the plants' needs for water on hot, sunny days. (It also makes the yard a lot more enjoyable for us!)

Plants are arranged in groups according to their water needs. See the plant list on the back of this guide to review the various plants used and their water requirement classifications.

1. Efficient Lawn Areas

Lawns are a popular – and often the most extensive – part of residential landscapes. But in many yards, lawns are the most “water hungry” element. At our water wise garden, we have reduced the size of the lawn area by incorporating a large patio and large mulched planting beds into the landscape. Our lawn area is about 40% smaller than typical lawns, based on the proportion of lawn size to total yard area. We have used Centipede and Emerald Zoysia, which are good choices for water wise turfgrass.

2. Soil Preparation

The success of a garden depends heavily on soil preparation. If you're not sure what you have to do to “make it right,” consult a professional. You can have your soil tested at your local County Extension Office to help determine what preparation you need. Adding compost to your soil increases its capacity to hold water, and adding aggregate improves drainage.

3. Mulch

Using mulch is one of the simplest and most effective water conservation techniques that you can use in your yard. Mulch conserves moisture in the ground by slowing the evaporation of water from the soil, which reduces the amount of water you need to apply. Mulch is decorative, too! We've used pine straw as mulch here in our yard. Other readily available mulches you may choose include chipped or shredded hardwood bark, pine bark or fall leaves. Gravel, marble chips and other forms of rock are sometimes used as mulch for plants that need sharp drainage. Don't use grass clippings for mulch. They decompose quickly, mat down, and often turn moldy. Compost your clippings instead.

Efficient Irrigation

A water wise yard uses what water it needs efficiently. You should water the different sections of your yard separately, according to the water needs of what's planted in each area. One inch a week is recommended; a deep watering once a week is healthier for plants than shallow, more frequent watering.

If you use a significant amount of water for irrigation you can save a considerable amount on your sewer bill by asking PWC to set up a separate meter at your house for irrigation only? There is an initial charge to set up the new meter, but you won't be charged a sewer fee every month for water used solely for irrigation.

4. Lawn Irrigation

Lawn irrigation at our water wise garden is provided by pop-up gear heads, which apply water in an even pattern across the entire lawn. The lawn area closer to the house is shadier, so it's watered on a different schedule than the sunnier area. If you happen to see the lawn irrigation running, you'll notice there are a considerable number of sprinkler heads (more than you might have expected). This provides an even and more efficient water pattern that applies water only where it's needed.

5. Irrigation Controller

If you use irrigation in your yard, automate the system with electric valves and a controller. These regulate the timing of the watering so you only water as much as needed. Also, you can install a rain sensor on your controller to make sure the system doesn't run in the rain. For more information, contact the garden.

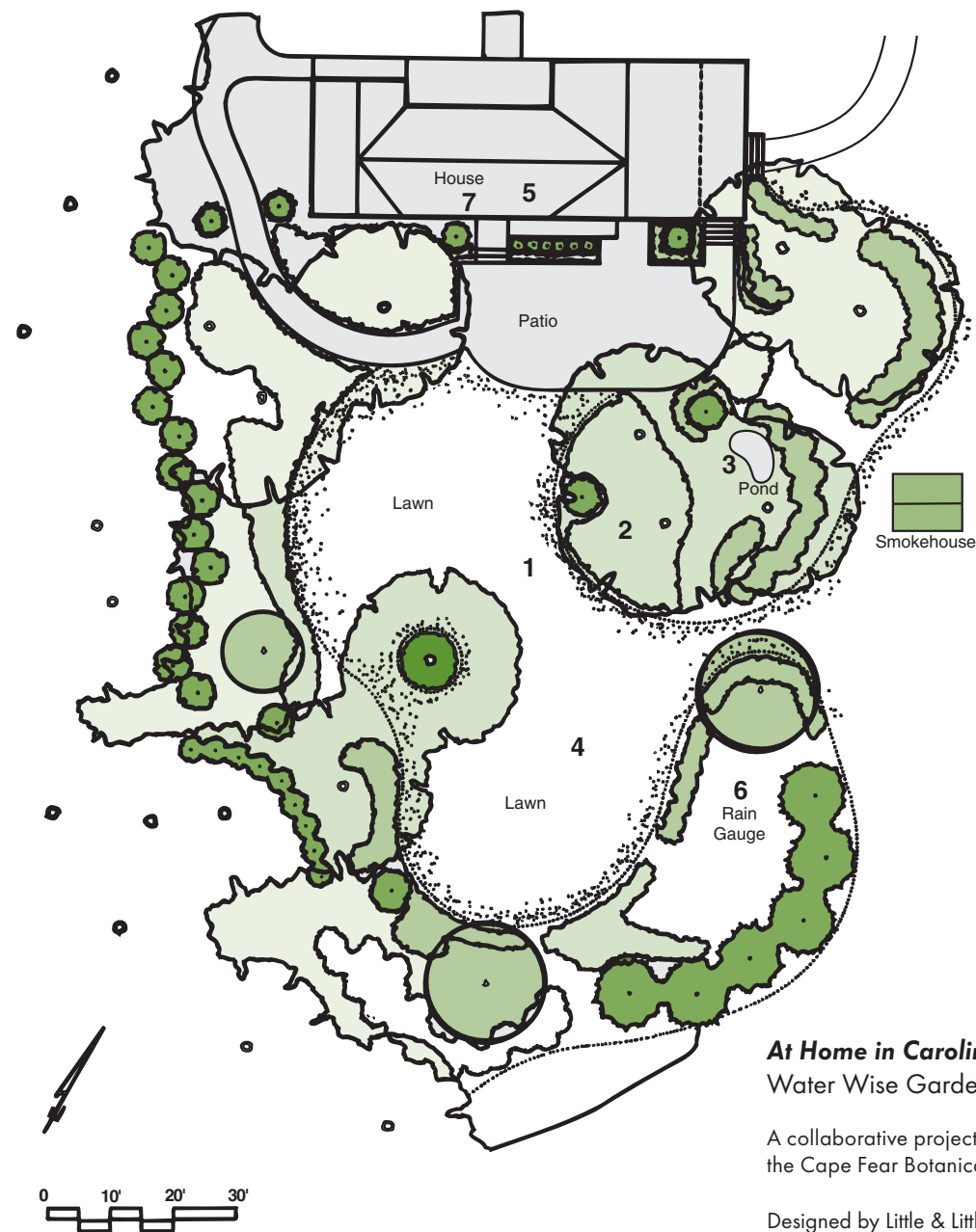
6. Rain Gauge

A rain gauge accurately measures rainfall. You can check it weekly to determine if your yard has received adequate moisture (so *you* don't need to water).

7. Rain Barrel

The Rain Barrel collects water from each rain event by its connection to the downspout off of the Farmhouse gutter. The rainwater is used to “spot water” plants in pots and water new plants around the Garden.

Guided tours of the *At Home in Carolina* water wise garden are available with advance reservations, call 910-486-0221. If you would like additional information on water conservation, visit www.faypwc.com.



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A collaborative project of PWC and
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Designed by Little & Little Landscape
Architecture/Planning