

**Horticulture - Session 1 - Drought Tolerant Garden**  
**Thursdays, 9:00-10:30**  
**Instructor: Laura Erlig**

**“Horticulture is focused on cultivation and the properties that the plant possesses while agriculture is the foundation of our food chain, encompassing both crops and animal husbandry.”** [Dec 1, 2019](#)

In this class, students will be introduced to the concepts around creating a drought tolerant garden, and then work to make it a reality. We will be developing the idea from the ground up, literally. Starting with creating a plan or vision board for the space without any particular plants and being willing to alter it as we learn and grow. We'll discuss soil types and what drought tolerant plants need, and how we will create a living soil. We'll learn about California native drought tolerant plants, pest repellent plants, and biodiverse permaculture. We will also learn about capturing rainwater, using drip irrigation, and mulching. We will build our garden (hopefully) this session, but may need more than one session for this class. If you have any landscaping skills please let us know or extra supplies as this is fun for all and many hands make light work.

**Week 1:** Why make a drought tolerant garden? Virtual Garden Tours and Virtual Site Plans. Measure and Map the space and clear space.

**Week 2:** Plant Design and [California Native Plant Society - Calscape garden planner](#) Plant Design (drought tolerant plants, pest repellent plants, and what they need) Climate zone & Microclimate. Choose plants and create a vision board where plants are to be placed. Lay hardware cloth down and mark where the raised bed will be.

**Week 3:** Build to our plans, raised bed, stepping stones, etc - Evaluate your participation and what was accomplished.

**Week 4:** Build healthy soil - What does it look like? What type do our plants need? What does Ph have to do with soil? Add soil to the raised bed and amend if need be.

**Week 5:** Plants and mulch - What is mulch? Why do we need it? What kind is best? Plant the plants and mulch.

**Week 6:** Irrigation - What is drip irrigation and how does it work? Create a visual plan and then install.

**Week 7:** Capturing Rainwater - Ways to do it. Survey campus and look for areas to capture water and create a plan. Final on the ecosystem that was created.

Rubric:

40% Classwork and keeping an organized notebook that is detailed with notes, drawings, and answers to questions posed for understanding.

40% Collaboration and participation in discussions and working on creating the garden

10% Final

10% Attendance and being prepared for class