

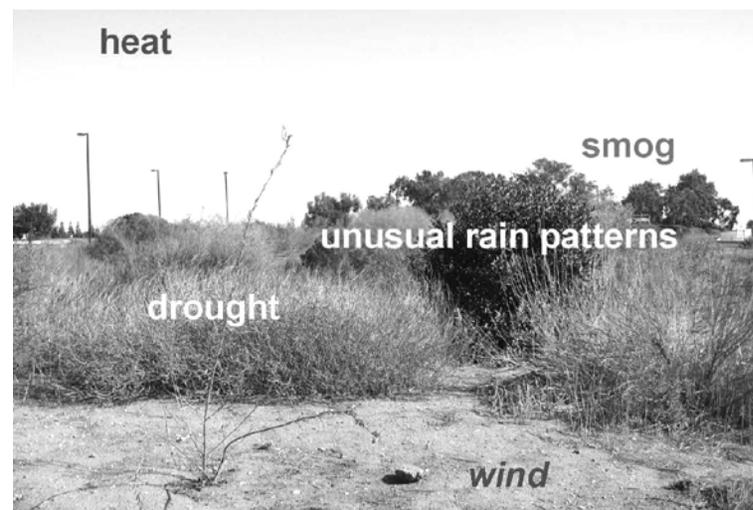
## Steps You Can Take Right Now

- **Reduce your carbon footprint.** Drive a hybrid or other fuel efficient auto, walk or ride a bike. Conserve electricity or go solar. Limit use of charcoal, fireplaces.
- **Plant a shade tree.** A tree or large shrub, planted on the south or west side of the house, can reduce temperatures by 20° or more, saving electricity and making indoor and outdoor living more pleasant.
- **Make your patios and walkways permeable.** This reduces runoff and infiltrates water into your garden.
- **Convert parts of your yard to 'water-wise' areas.** There's no need to do the whole yard. But water-wise native plants, grouped together (Water Zone/ hydrozone gardening), can conserve water, provide cooling shade and much more. See our brochures to learn how.
- **Choose replacement plants carefully.** Plants of the future must thrive in heat, drought, smog and occasional El Niño rains. For helpful ideas see: <http://mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/2015/09/sustainable-gardening-trees-for.html>
- **Choose native food plants** (for your family and native birds, pollinators, etc.). See our brochures for ideas.
- **Learn more about sustainable gardening at:** <http://mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/>. You can e-mail your Water Zone questions to: [mothernaturesbackyard10@gmail.com](mailto:mothernaturesbackyard10@gmail.com)



## Mother Nature's Water-wise Gardening Tips

## Climate Change and Your Garden



Seven years of drought in southern California. Severe flooding in the Midwest and South; hurricanes along the East coast. It's hard not to notice that our weather is different. Climate change is happening *right now*, whether we like it or not.

Most gardeners know that the Earth has been getting hotter. But climate change brings different challenges to each part of the world. We need to know what our climate will be like, *in the South Bay*, so we can take steps now. While it's difficult to predict the future precisely, inside are ten changes that are likely to occur in our area.

1. **Average temperatures will be slightly hotter.** Fortunately, the ocean keeps us cooler than the inland areas. However, our temperatures will still be 3-6 degrees higher overall in the future.
2. **More extreme heat days (greater than 90° F).** If you like the heat, great! But some plants and people will have trouble coping with the higher temperatures. Most of the really hot days will occur in summer and fall. Plan ahead by *planting shade trees, providing other sources of shade and choosing plants that can take the heat. Keep cool!*



3. **More frequent (and longer) heat waves in winter.** Santa Ana winds bring hot, dry conditions to western Los Angeles County. As overall temperatures rise, the number of winter and spring days with Santa Ana winds will increase. *Plant trees that can take wind and heat. Keep existing trees healthy to prevent damage.*
4. **Longer summers (summer comes earlier and lasts longer).** Our seasons are changing. The cool, rainy days of fall come later; and winter and spring are shorter each year. Plants are blooming at unusual times (they are "confused about the seasons"). Some may have fewer flowers and fruits – or even die – as a result.
5. **Longer and more severe droughts.** The past few years have been a good example of what's to come. Water conservation measures will become routine. *As you replace plants, choose water-wise, native varieties.*

6. **Greater than average rainfall – in some years.** Expect strong El Niño conditions (even flooding) some years. *Choose tough, adaptable native plants that can take both drought and flooding. Their roots hold the soil and help prevent flooding. Ask us for ideas.*



7. **More frequent, and more severe wild fires.** We've already experienced the effects of drought on our local mountains and foothills. The fires are more severe – and they can occur any time of the year. *If you live in a fire-prone area, plant wisely to protect your home.*
8. **More smoggy days in western LA County.** Santa Ana winds bring smog to our area. Until air pollution becomes a thing of the past, we'll have more smog year-round. Some trees and shrubs will die as a result. *Plant smog-resistant varieties, if possible.*
9. **New plant pests, diseases, and weeds.** Warmer temperatures will favor new plant pests and weeds. *Be on the lookout for these potential problems. Take action!*
10. **Some birds, butterflies, pollinators, and beneficial insects will have a hard time in the wild.** Climate change will make food and water hard to find for some creatures. *Plant California native plants to provide food for birds, butterflies, pollinators, and others. Provide a source of water. Make your garden a life-friendly oasis!*