

Alternatives to the Traditional Lawn



Reducing Turf Grass to Save Water and Money

Reasons for reducing turf grass in your yard.

- Saves time
- Saves money
- Better for birds and
pollinators.



- **Saves one of our most valuable resources:
water.**

Landscape irrigation accounts for about one-third of residential water use, totaling nearly 9 billion gal. a day.

Saving water outdoors



Lawns originated with European nobility.
American millionaires copied them
in the late 1800's.



Europe

U.S.



Residential lawns really took off after World War II as the housing market boomed.



Grasses like Bermuda and St. Augustine were imported for golf courses.

Early lawns included clover, as well as, grass.

But when they introduced broadleaf weed killers, suddenly clover was a “weed”.



OK, so if not lawn, what are our options?



This is not your only option.



Hardscaping











Mulch







Groundcovers



Mondo grass



Creeping thyme



Broadmoor juniper



Purpleheart



Sedges are becoming popular groundcovers. In our area they will need at least some shade.



Frogfruit

- Texas native
- Sun or shade
- Long bloom period
- Pollinator plant
- Host plant for the Phaon Crescent and Buckeye butterflies



Ground Cover Suggestions

For Sun

- Trailing lantana
- Sedum
- Catmint
- Germander
- Ornamental grasses



For Shade

- Lirope
- Creeping jenny
- Lamium
- Pidgeon berry
- Silver pony foot



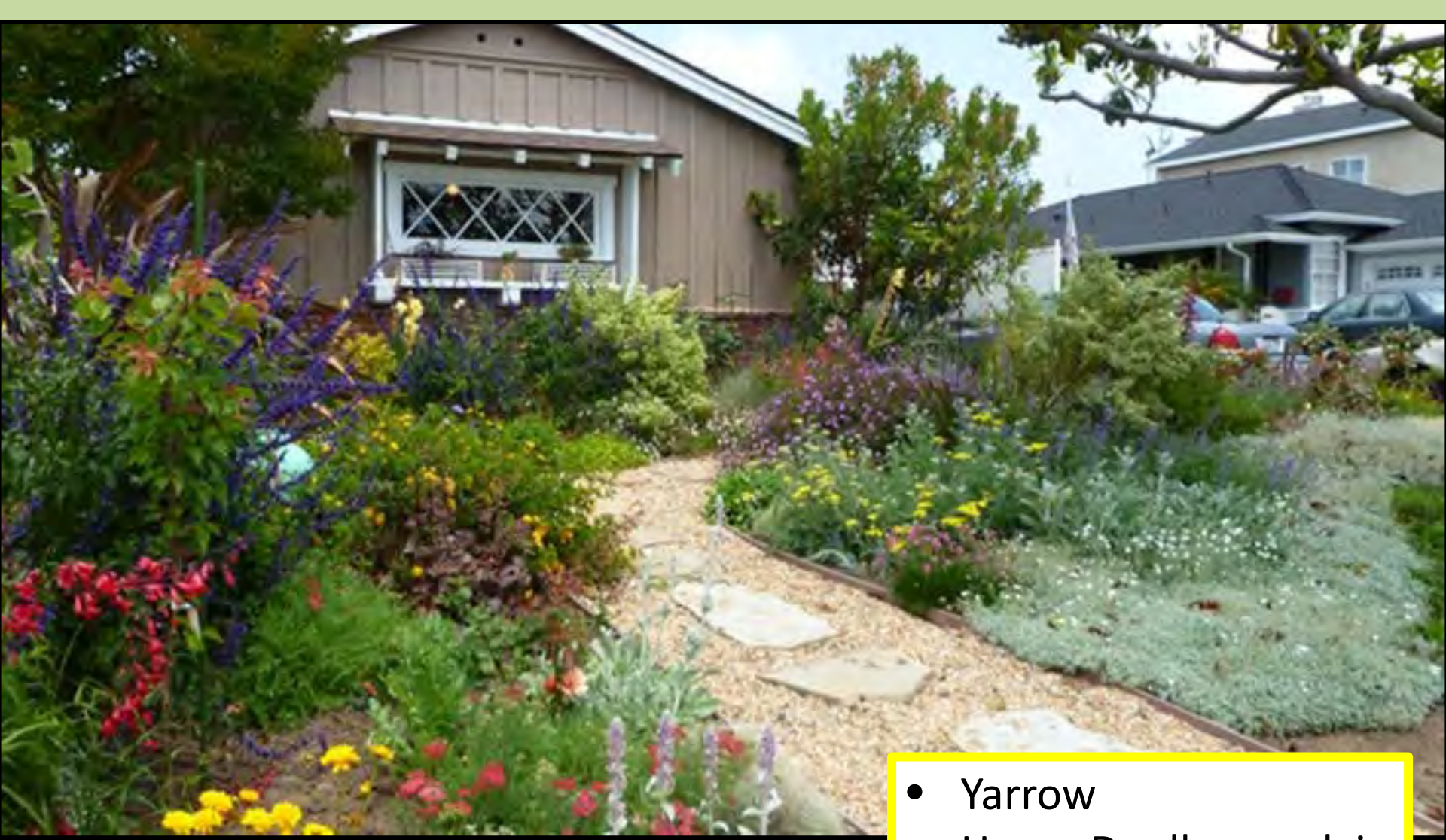
Garden Beds



- Penstemon
- Gregg's mistflower
- Salvia greggi
- Coreopsis
- Bluebonnets

- Antique roses
- Liatris
- Poppies
- Mealy cup sage
- Russian sage
- Phlox





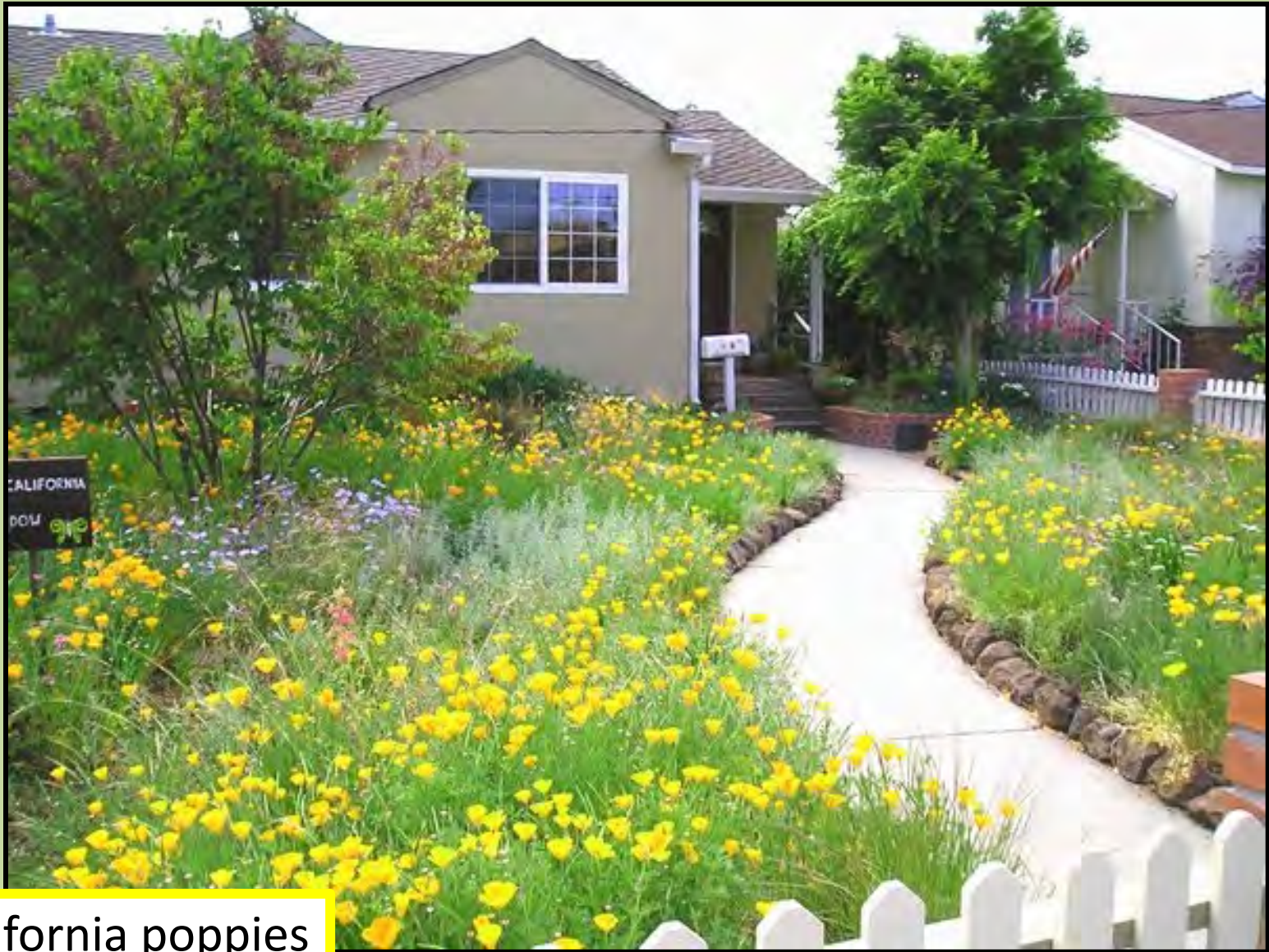
- Yarrow
- Henry Duelburg salvia
- Silver ponyfoot
- Penstemon
- Daylilies



- Redbud
- Texas Mountain laurel
- Irises
- Creeping juniper



- Ornamental grasses
- Agaves
- Texas sage



- California poppies
- Artemisia
- Santolina
- Native grasses

Native Turf Grasses





NATIVE AMERICAN SEED



This seed blend is drought tolerant and doesn't need to be mowed as often as Bermuda.

Thunderturf: blend of buffalo grass, blue grama, and curly mesquite. All native turf grasses





Widely used at the
George W. Bush Center in Dallas

How do you start?

If you're still nervous, start a little at a time.

- Put in a little seating area.



- Add some island beds around your trees; grass doesn't grow there anyway.



- Expand some existing flower beds.



You don't have to get rid of all
of your lawn.



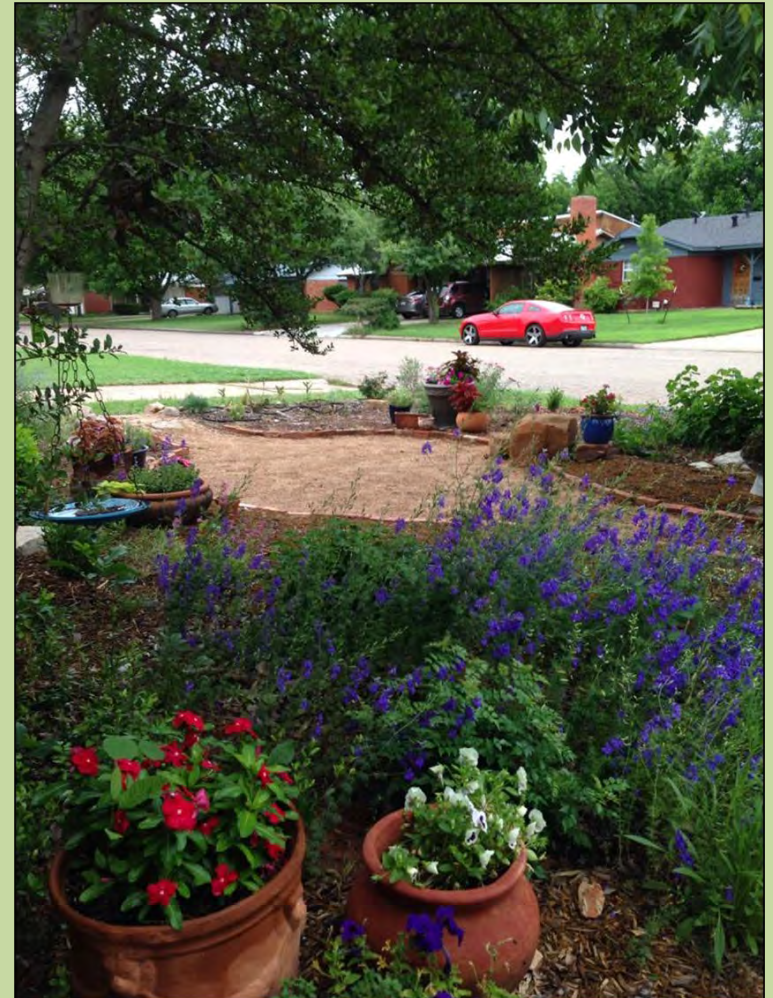
How do you get rid of the lawn you have?

- St. Augustine is easier to get rid of than Bermuda.
- You can rent a sod cutter or use a spade to remove the sod.
- You can use glyphosate. Spray wait a week, then spray again. Be super CAREFUL with this chemical. Bermuda may take several rounds.
- Smother it with wet newspaper or cardboard.



I like this picture
because you can't
see the weeds

Two of my best
helpers.
Josh is the muscle
Gavin supervises.



Some great drought tolerant small trees



Shrubs



Perennials



Some great sources

- ***Lawn Gone*** by Pam Penick
- ***Beautiful No Mow Lawns***
by Evelyn J. Hadden
- ***Covering Ground***
by Barbara Ellis

