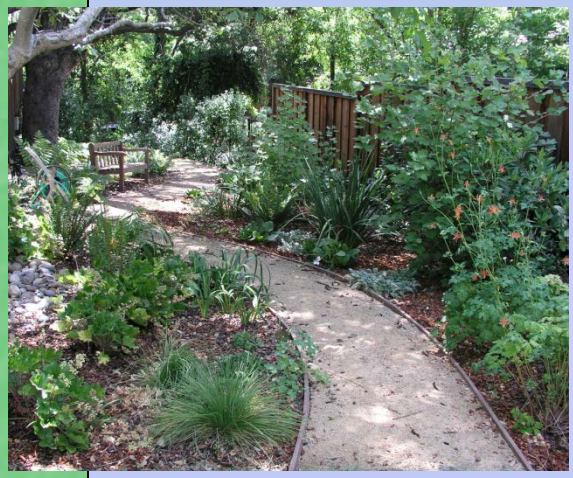
DROUGHT TOLERANT



LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Deva Luna EarthCare Landscaping 408-871-2792

First of a 4 part series

Drought Tolerant Landscape Design
March 22, 2018

Drought Tolerant Plant Selection
April 5 , 2018

Drought Tolerant Landscape Installation
April 19, 2018

Drought Tolerant Landscape Maintenance
May 3, 2018

Steps for Landscape Design

1. Goals
2. Budget
3. Site Analysis
4. Base Map
5. Conceptual Diagram
6. Select Plants

Common mistakes

- The collector’s garden (one of everything!)
- Overplanting
- Not enough contrast between plants
- Designing by flower color (needs “bones”)
- Not creating conditions for the plants to thrive
- Mixing different hydrozones
- Not maintaining the garden

Design Concepts

- The rule of odd numbers
- Massing
- Layering
- Repetition
- Contrast
- Function

Design & photo by Pete Veilleux

Leaf texture contrast is important

GOOD CONTRAST

POOR CONTRAST

Drawn by Fran Adams

Design: Stephanie Curtis Photo: Deva Luna

Texture, massing, repetition

Design: Stephanie Morris Photo: Deva Luna

Massing, repetition, layering

Textural contrast & massing

Structure & texture

Design: Sherri Osaka Photo: Deva Luna

Structure

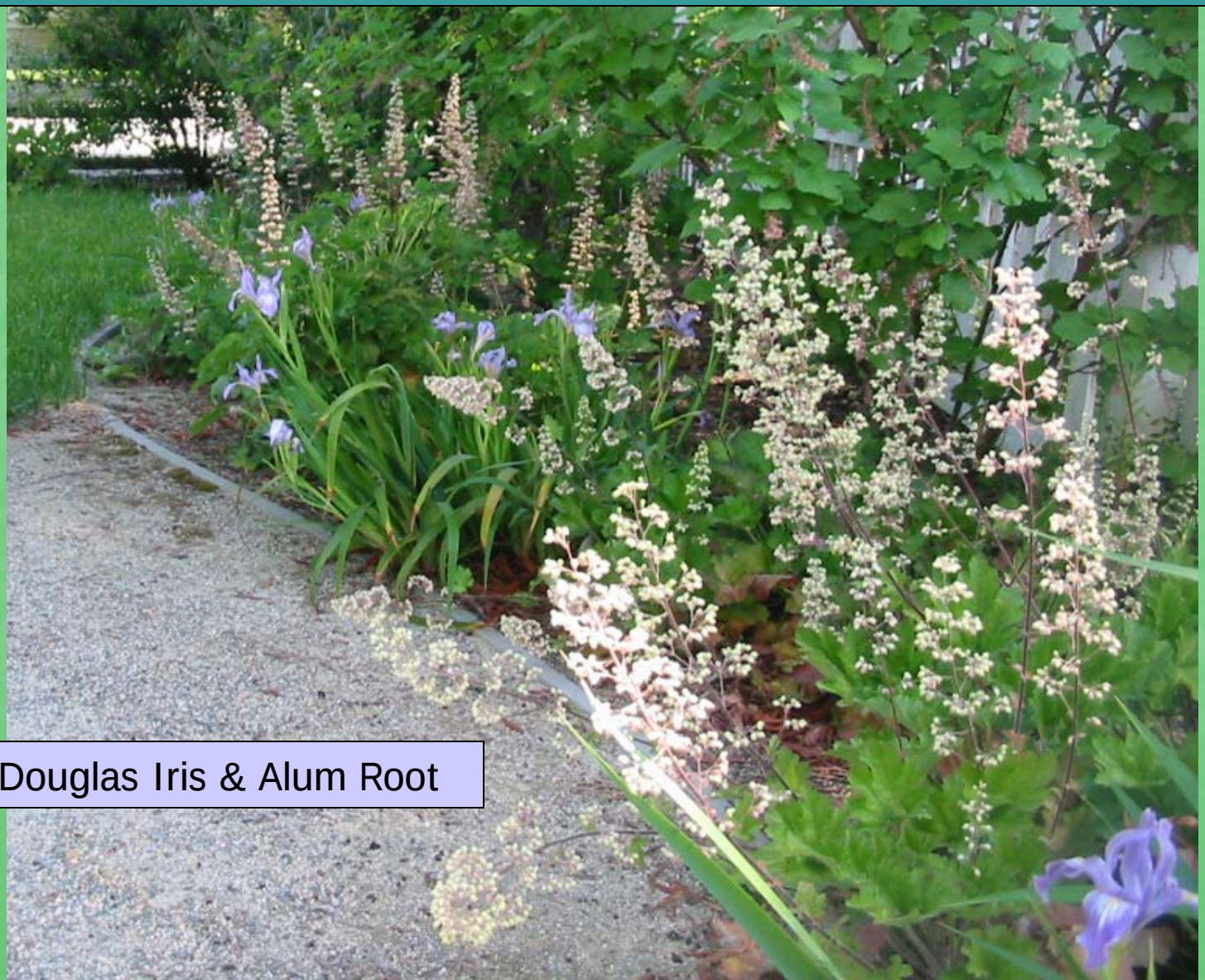
Hydrozoning

Photo: Carol Bornstein

California Buckeye

Try to create year-round interest

Spring



Douglas Iris & Alum Root

Summer

Autumn Sage & Beach Aster

CA Fuchsia & Deer Grass

Fall

Photo and Design: Stephanie Morris

Winter textures

Cleveland Sage & Deer Grass

BONES:

Hardscape that is attractive, bold and functional

BONES:

Contemporary retaining wall

Native Horsetail (keep contained!)

BONES

can also be plants with good structure

Dr. Hurd Manzanita

GUTS:
Outstanding and hard working perennials

Cedros Island Verbena & Poppies

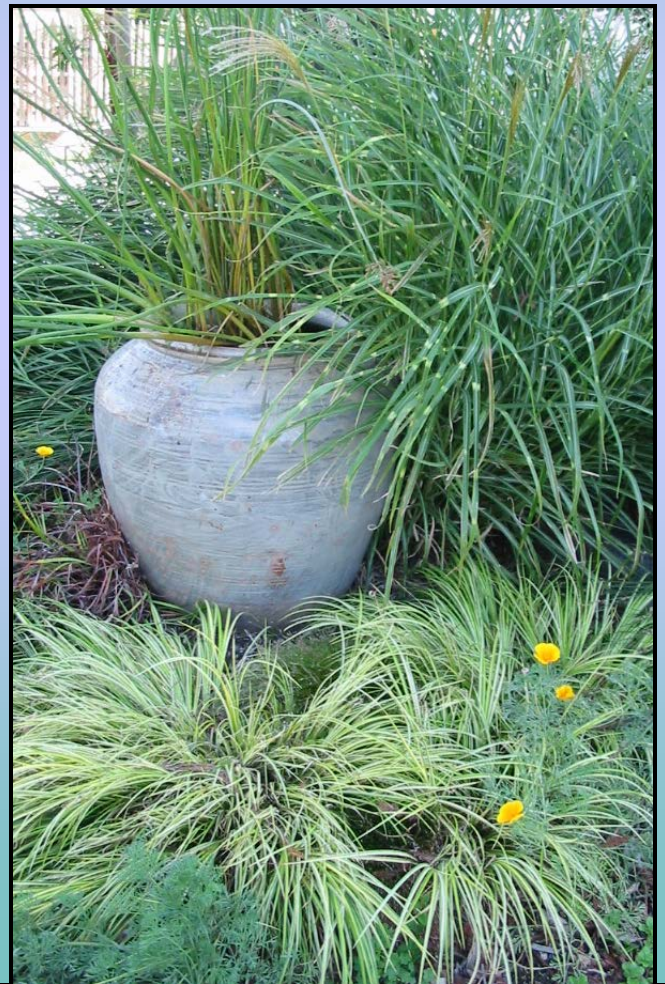
SKIN:

Ground covers that tie it all together visually

Green Supreme Manzanita & Pt. Sal Spreader Sage

ACCENTS:

Focal points to draw the eye

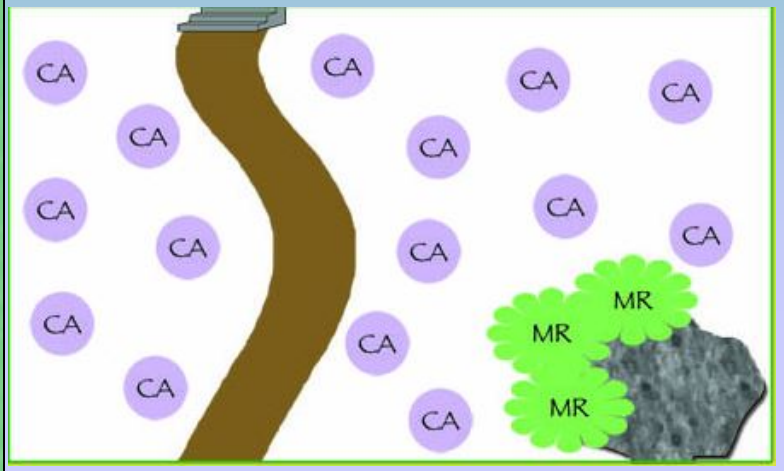


What do you need for the design?

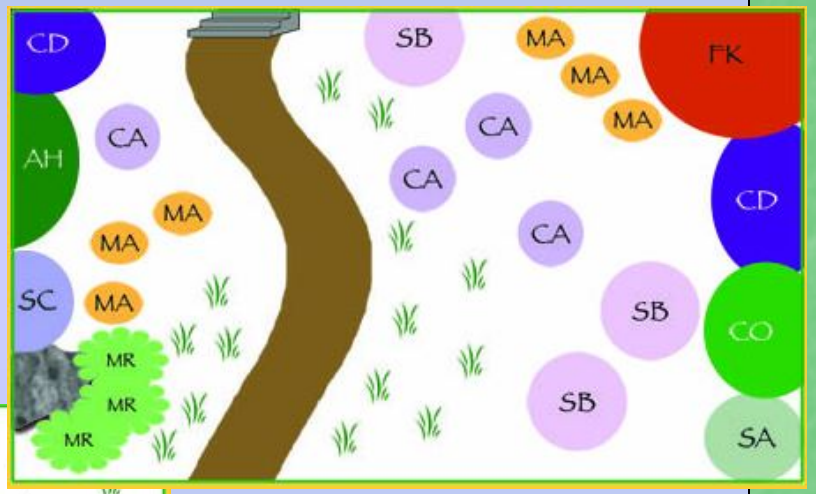
- Measuring tape(s)
- Ruler (but an architect’s scale is easier)
- Large piece of paper (gridded is easier)
- Compass or another way to find north

.

Sample Designs from Yerba Buena Nursery



Ground covers & grasses



Meadow with ground cover & habitat shrubs

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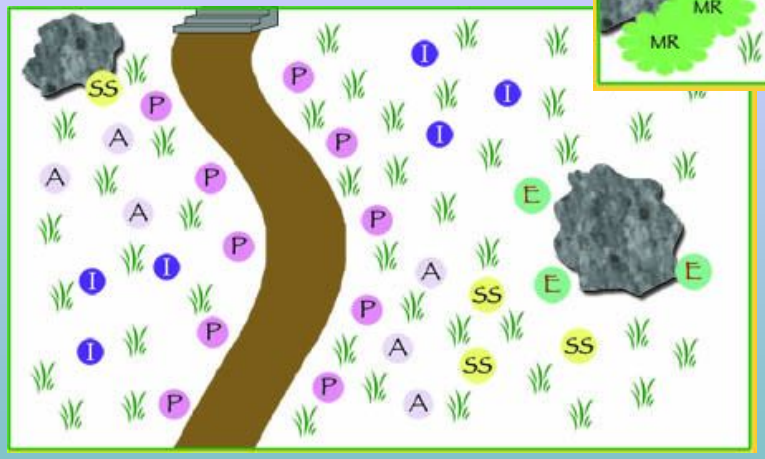


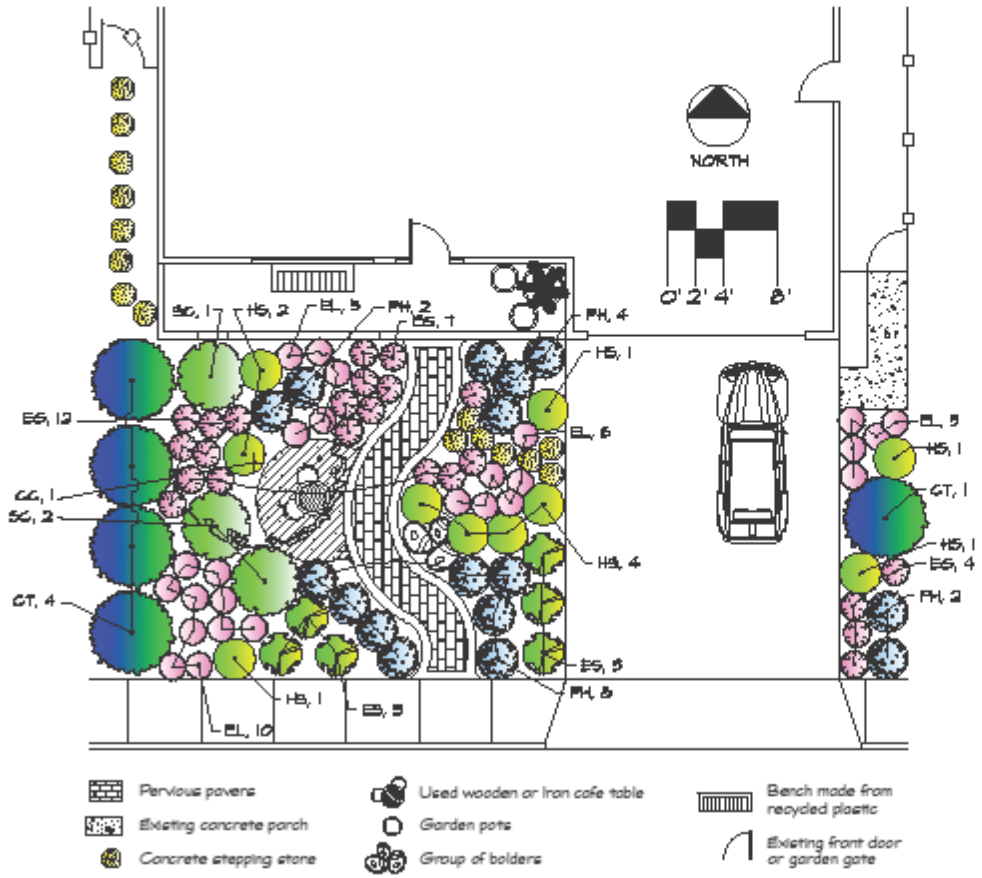
Meadow with small grasses & colorful perennials

www.yerbabuenanursery.com/lawn_alternatives_article.php

GREEN GARDENS HEALTHY CREEKS

Café Garden (Small, Sunny Yard)

Sustainable concept design for yards in Santa Clara Valley



Rosy Buckwheat
Eriogonum grande var. rubescens

California Fuchsia
Epilobium septentrionale 'Wayne's Silver'

Seaside Daisy
Erigeron glaucus 'Wayne Roderick'

Beard Tongue
Penstemon heterophyllus 'Margarita Bop'

Cleveland Sage
Salvia clevelandii

Sticky Monkeyflower
Mimulus aurantiacus

About the Concept Design Series

These designs are simple concepts to provide inspiration and ideas. Check with local nurseries, landscapers or other sustainable garden designers to help choose the best plants for your yard.

10 sample plans / City of San Jose website

http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3734

What does professional landscape design cost?

- Typical landscape designer rates are around $75-125/hr
- Landscape architects are higher (usually 10-12% of construction cost)
- Average front yard design costs range from $1000 to $2500
- Average backyard design costs range from $2000 to $4000

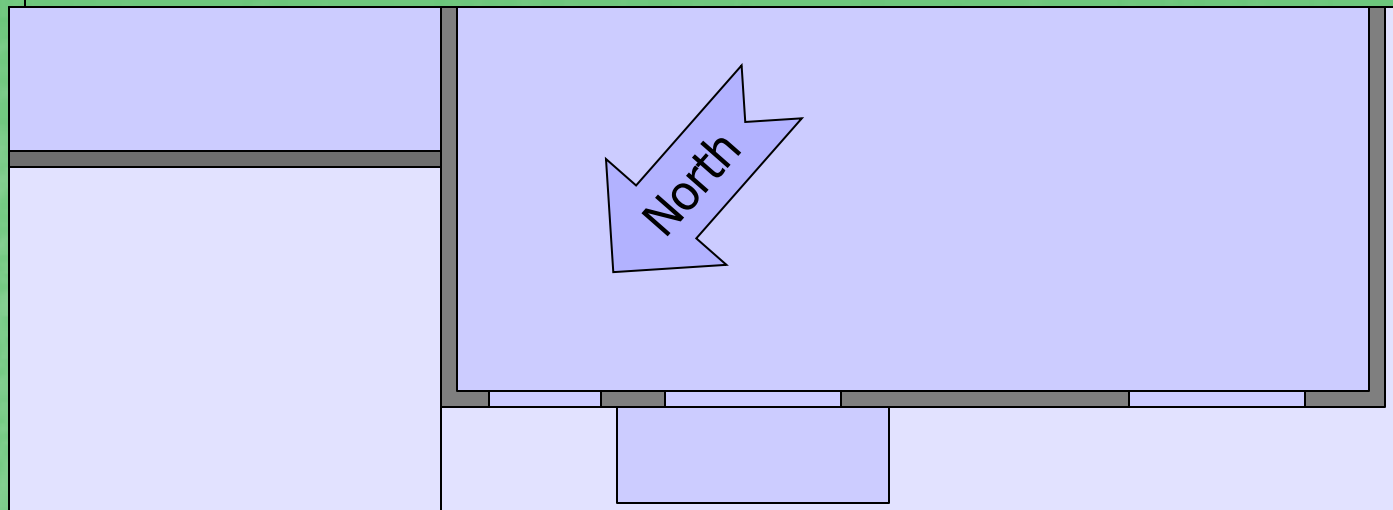
Professional Costs:
http://www.earthcareland.com/what-we-do/installation.html

Example of Goals

- Low maintenance
- Save water
- Bird and pollinator habitat
- Path to back gate
- Screening neighbor’s ugly shed
- Compatible with style of house & neighborhood
- Make entry more welcoming
- Landscape around an existing redwood tree

Then prioritize the list

Begin by measuring

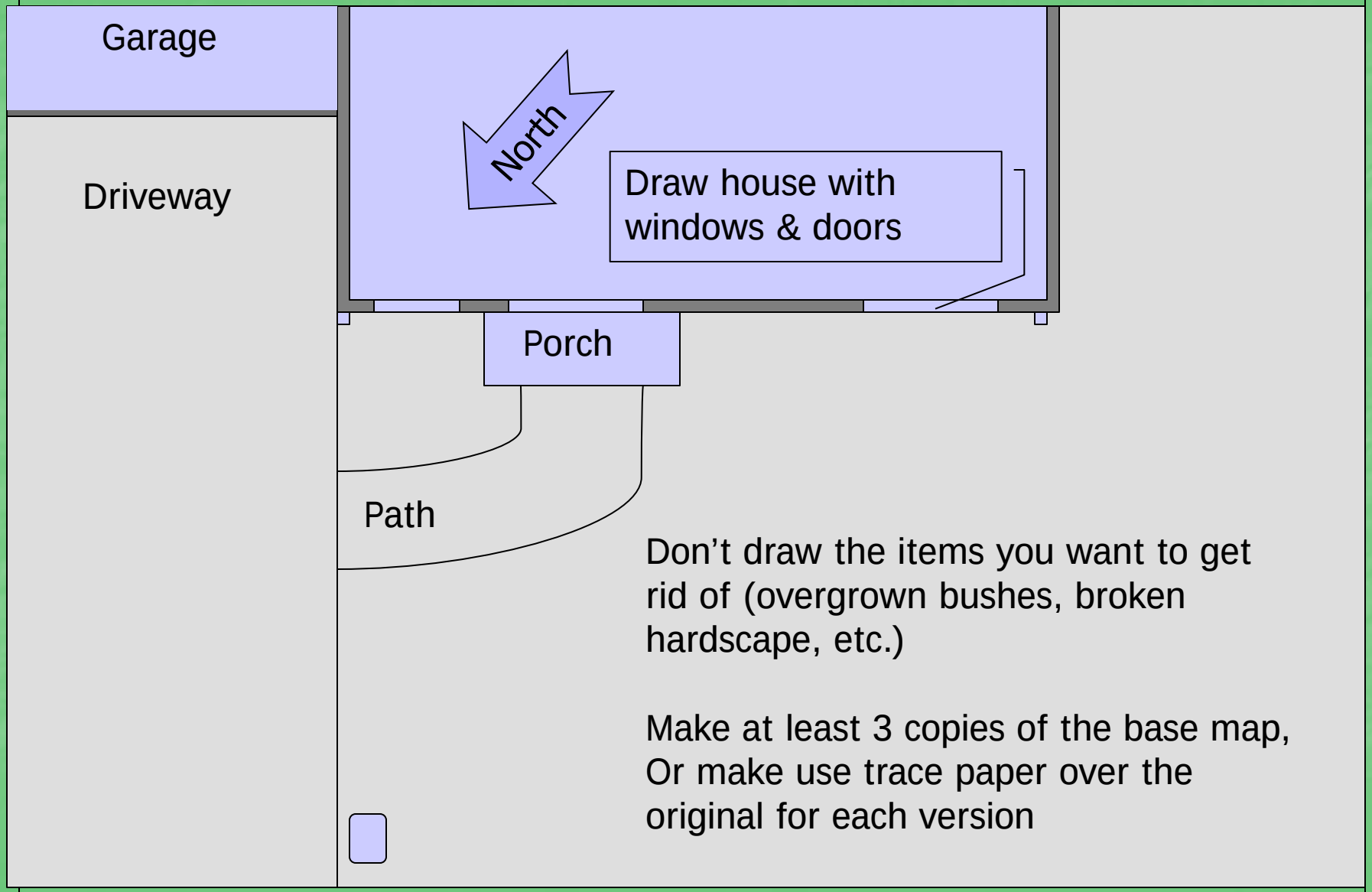


Start by measuring the whole area

Fit it on your page at 1/8” or ¼ ” per foot

1. Site the house; show property lines
2. North arrow
3. Driveway and paths, hose bibbs, utilities, downspouts, fence and gates
4. Trees/shrubs that are staying

Base Map Example



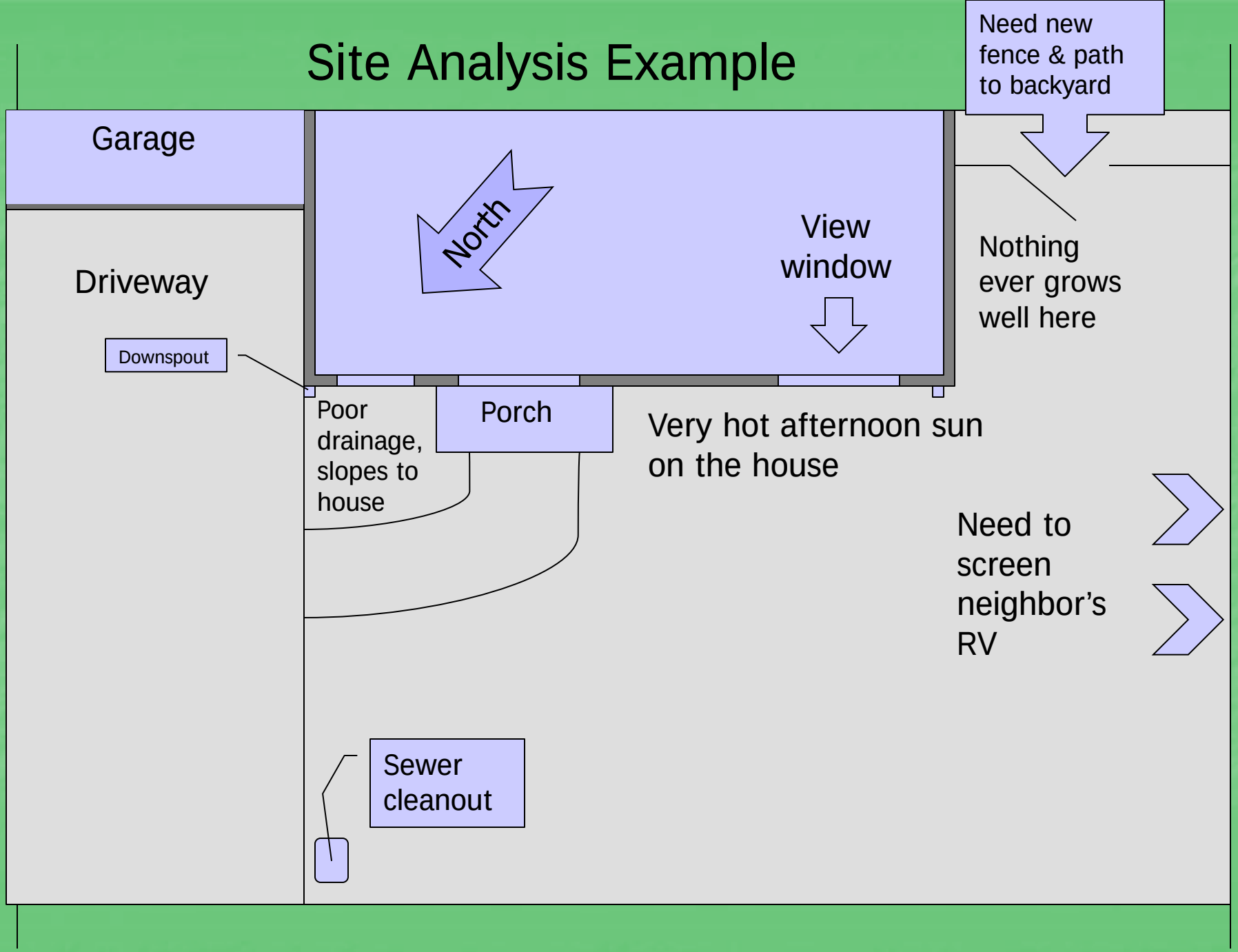
Don’t draw the items you want to get rid of (overgrown bushes, broken hardscape, etc.)

Make at least 3 copies of the base map, Or make use trace paper over the original for each version

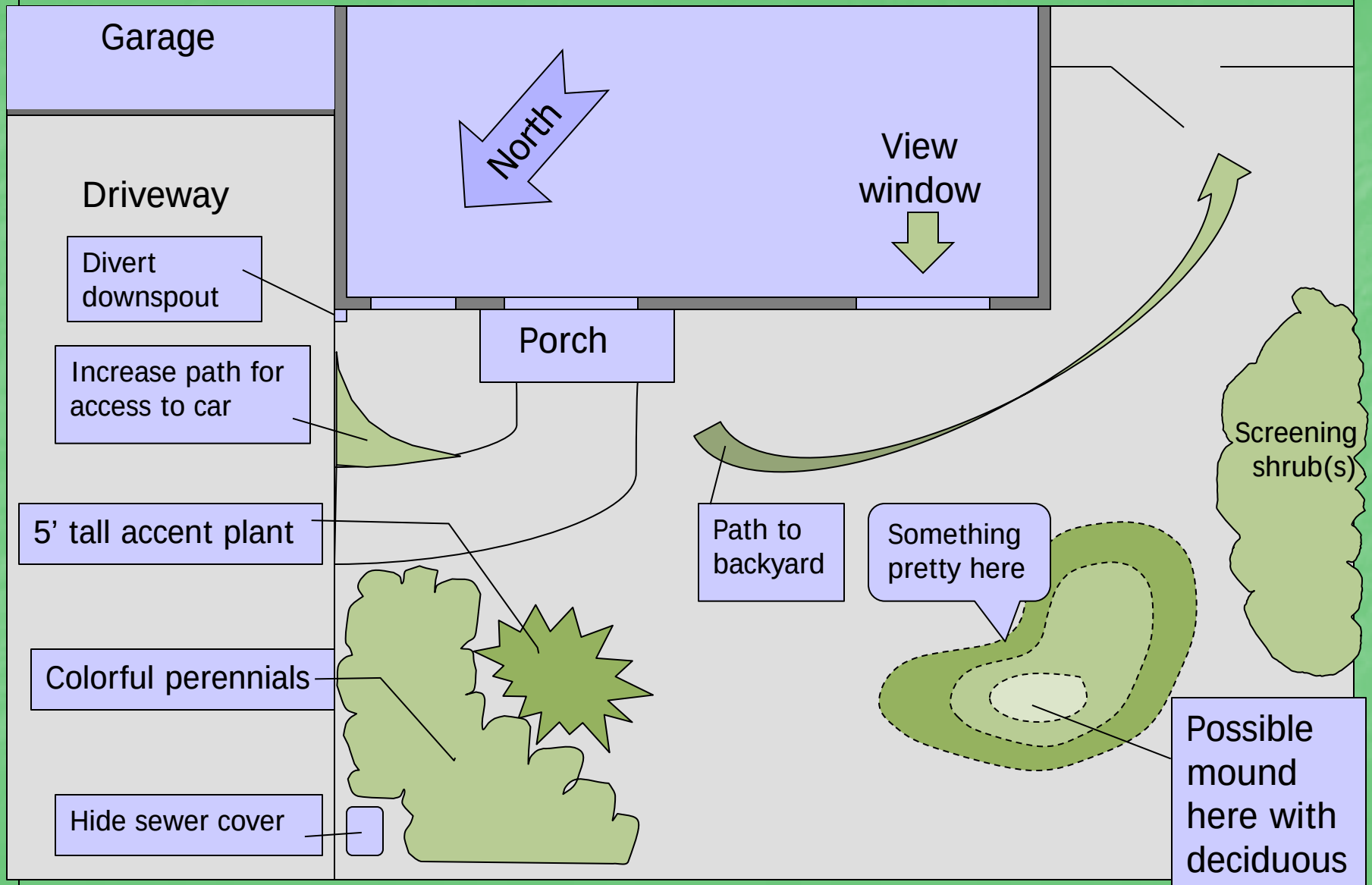
Site Analysis

- Sunset climate zone
- Look for possible microclimates
- Soil testing
- Identify plants to remove (be critical here!)
- Identify sun/shade patterns
- Important views of and from the house
- Things you want to hide
- Overhead wires, poles, trees (& neighbor's overhanging tree too)
- Logically traveled paths

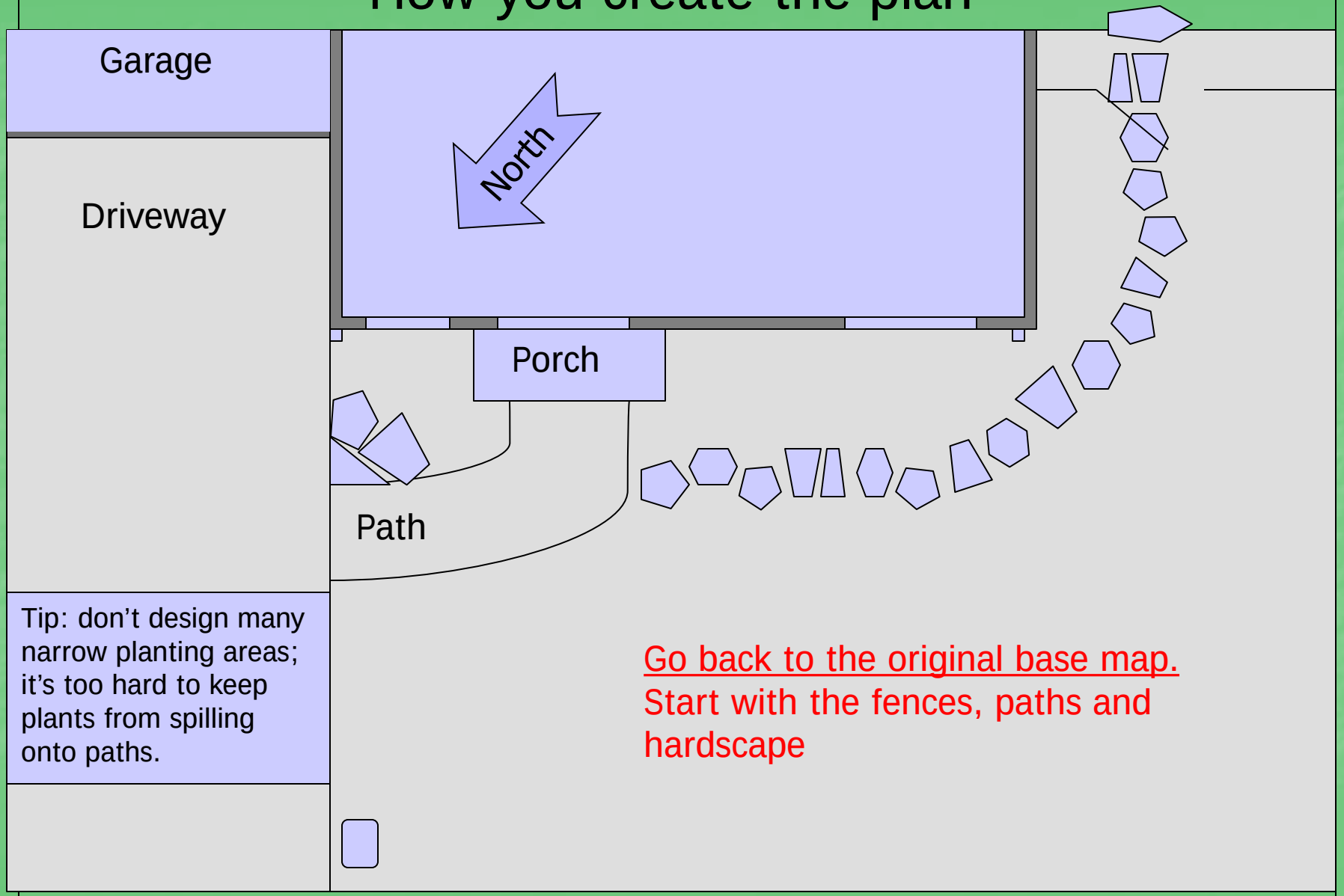
Site Analysis Example



Conceptual Diagram Example



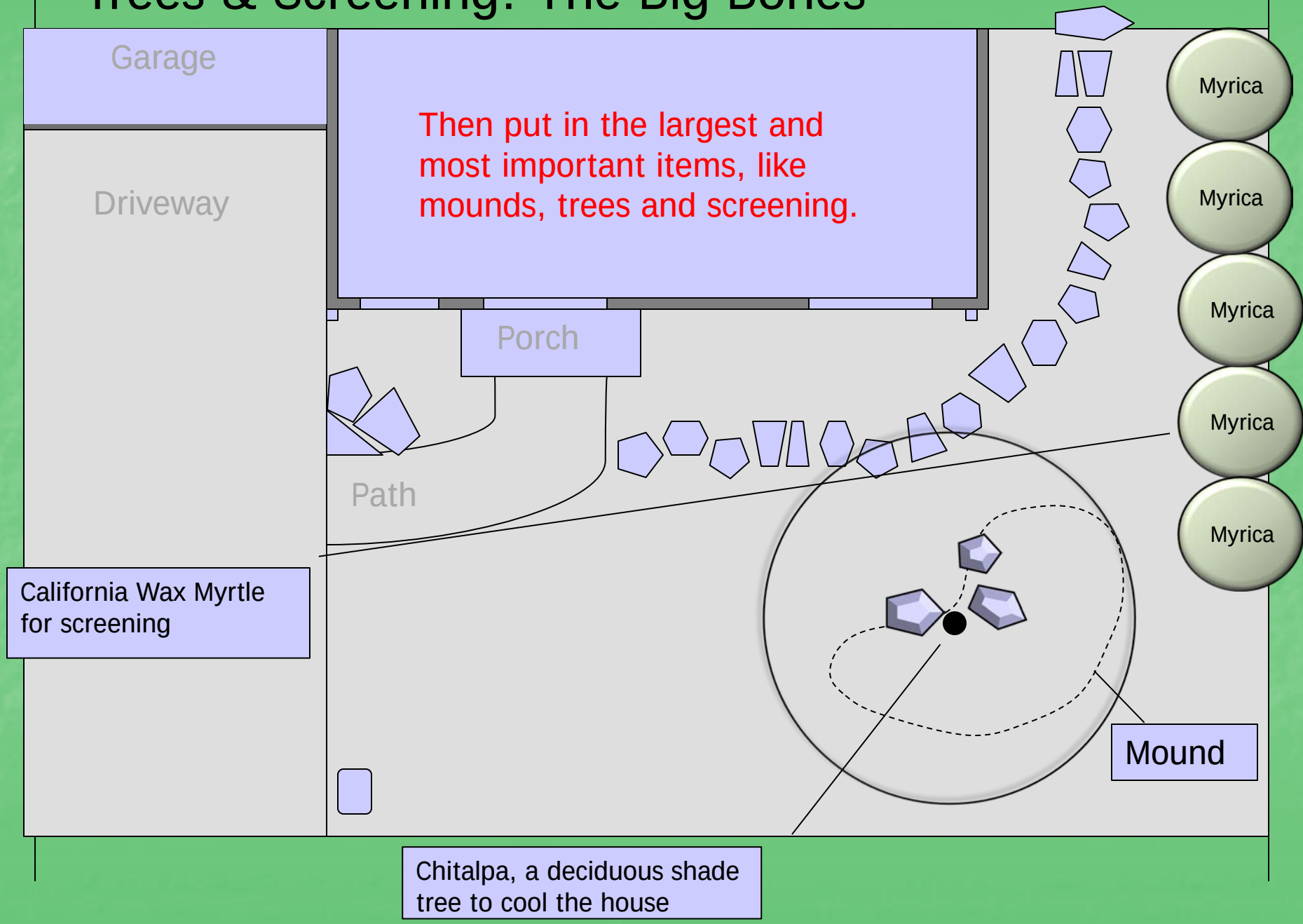
How you create the plan



Tip: don't design many narrow planting areas; it's too hard to keep plants from spilling onto paths.

Go back to the original base map.
Start with the fences, paths and hardscape

Trees & Screening: The Big Bones



Trees & Screening: The Big Bones

Garage

Driveway

Then put in the largest and most important items, like mounds, trees and screening.

Porch

Path

Myrica

Myrica

Myrica

Myrica

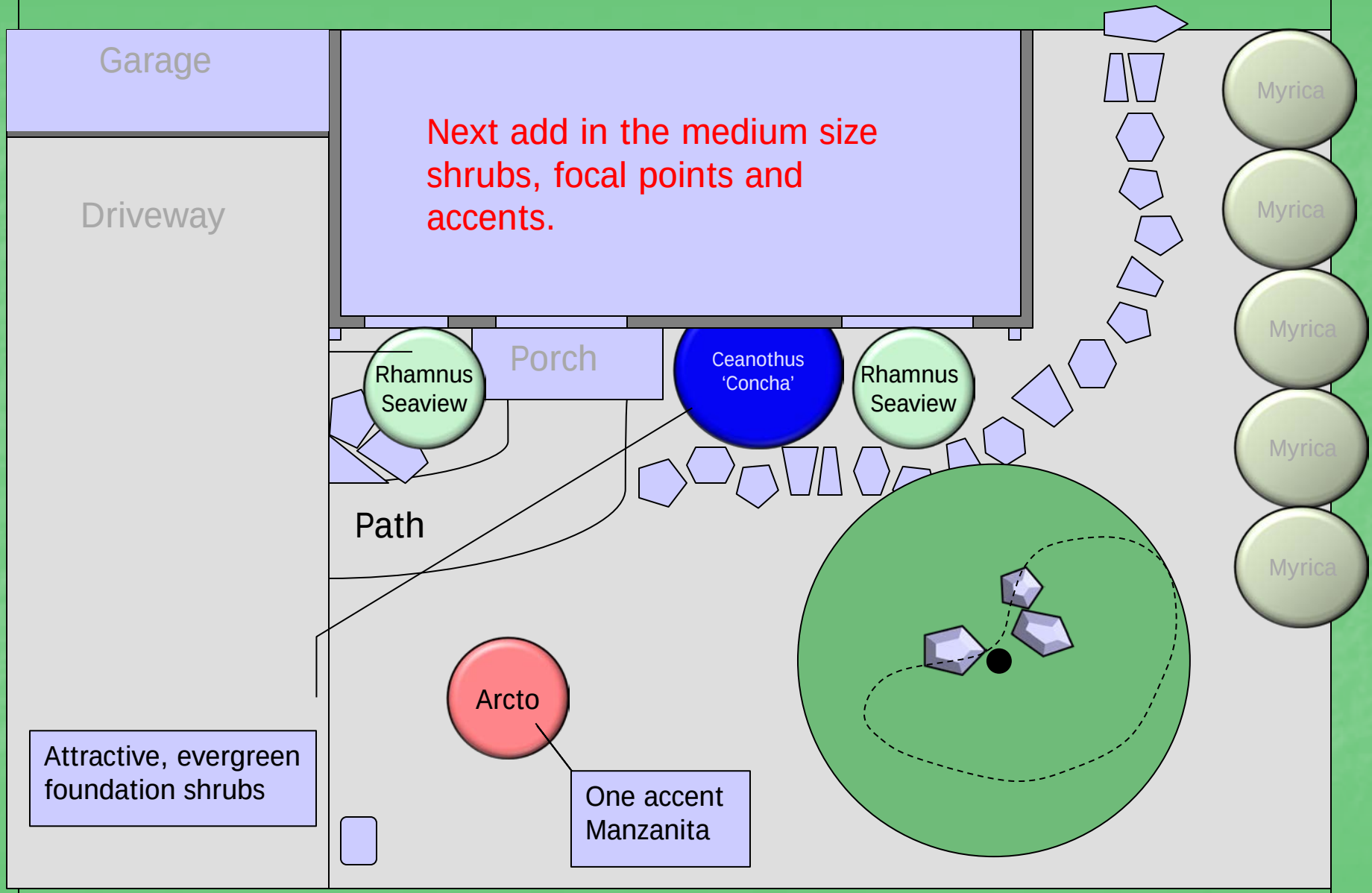
Myrica

California Wax Myrtle for screening

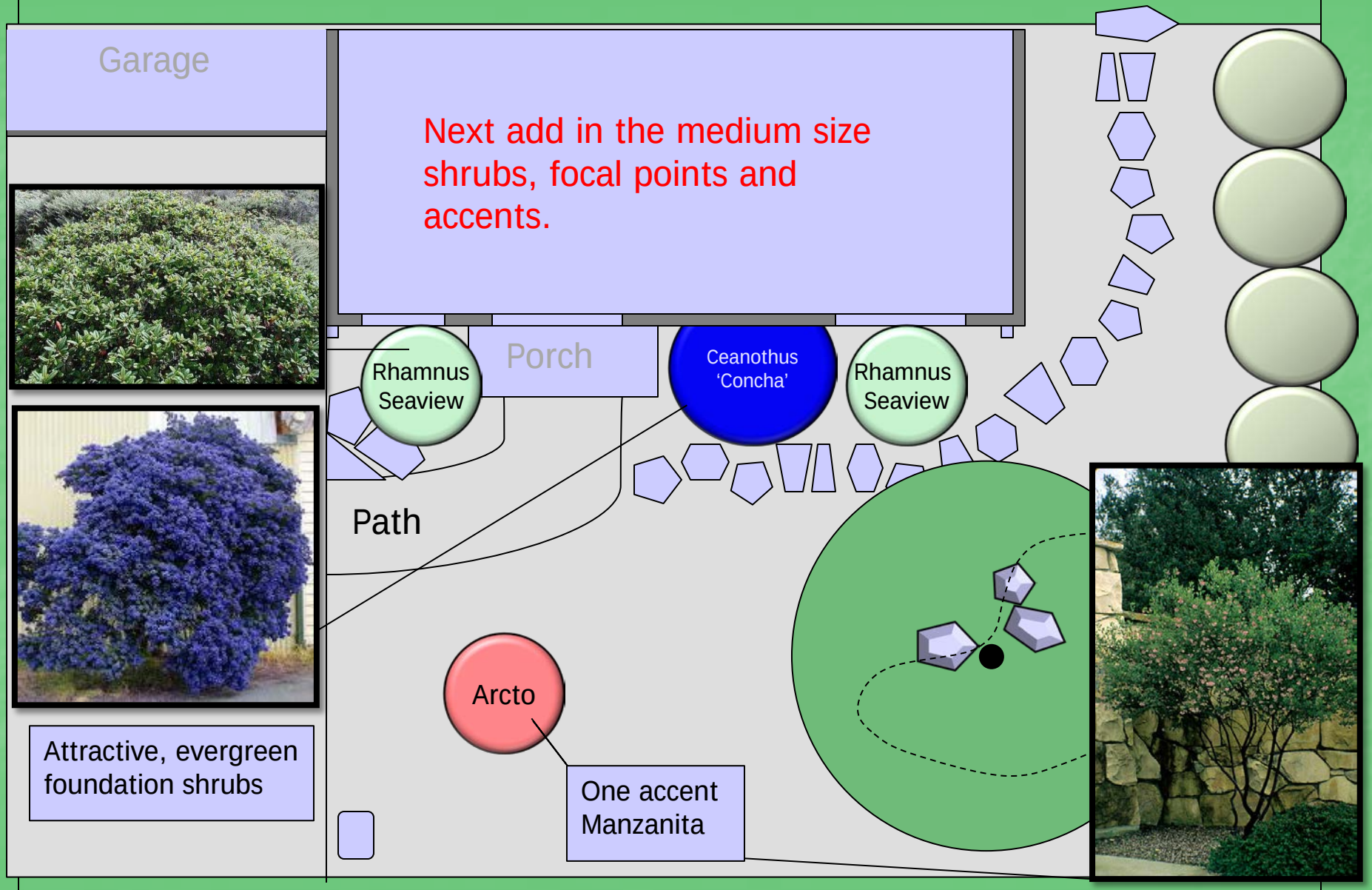
Chitalpa, a deciduous shade tree to cool the house

Mound

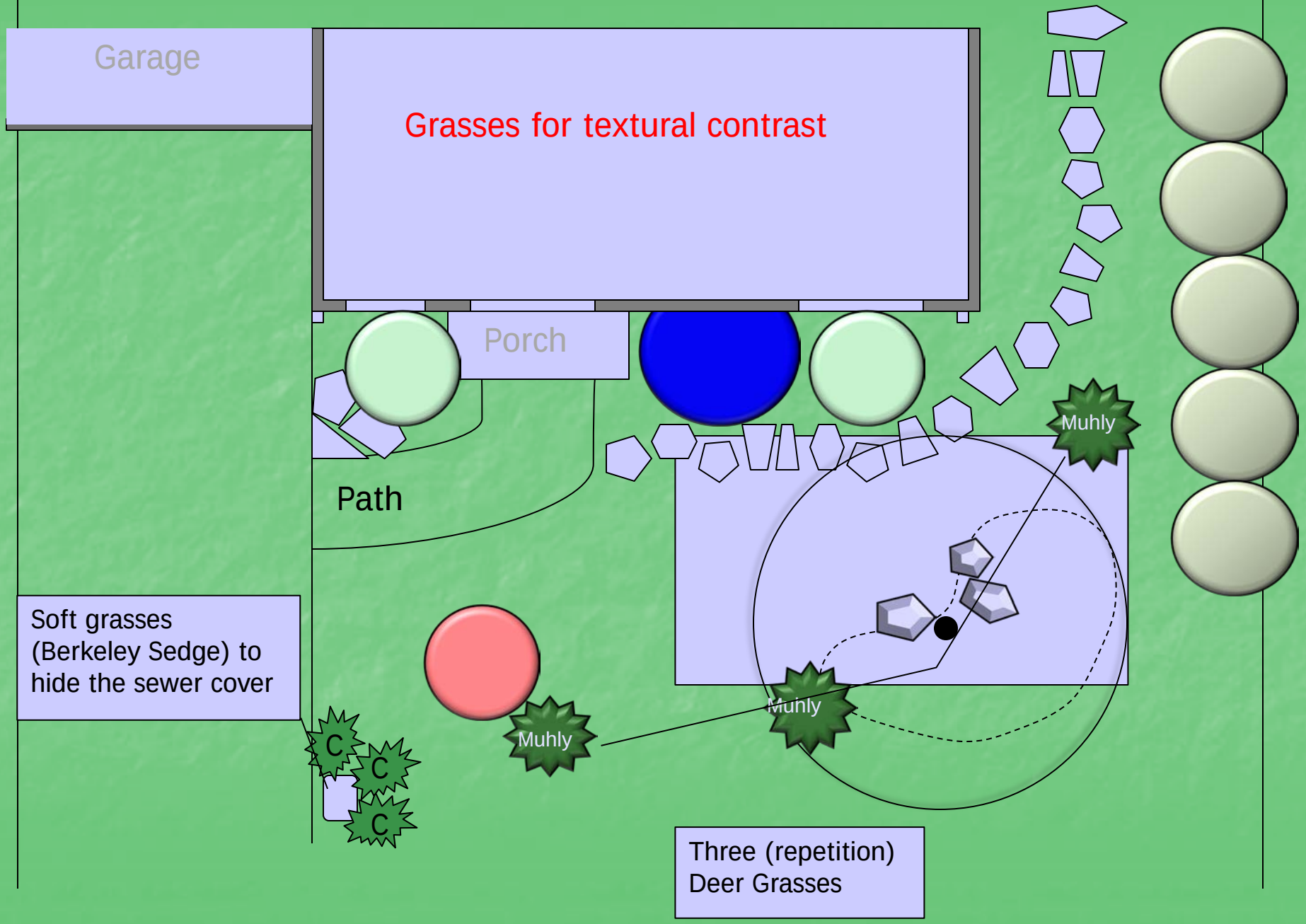
Medium Size Shrubs: The Smaller Bones



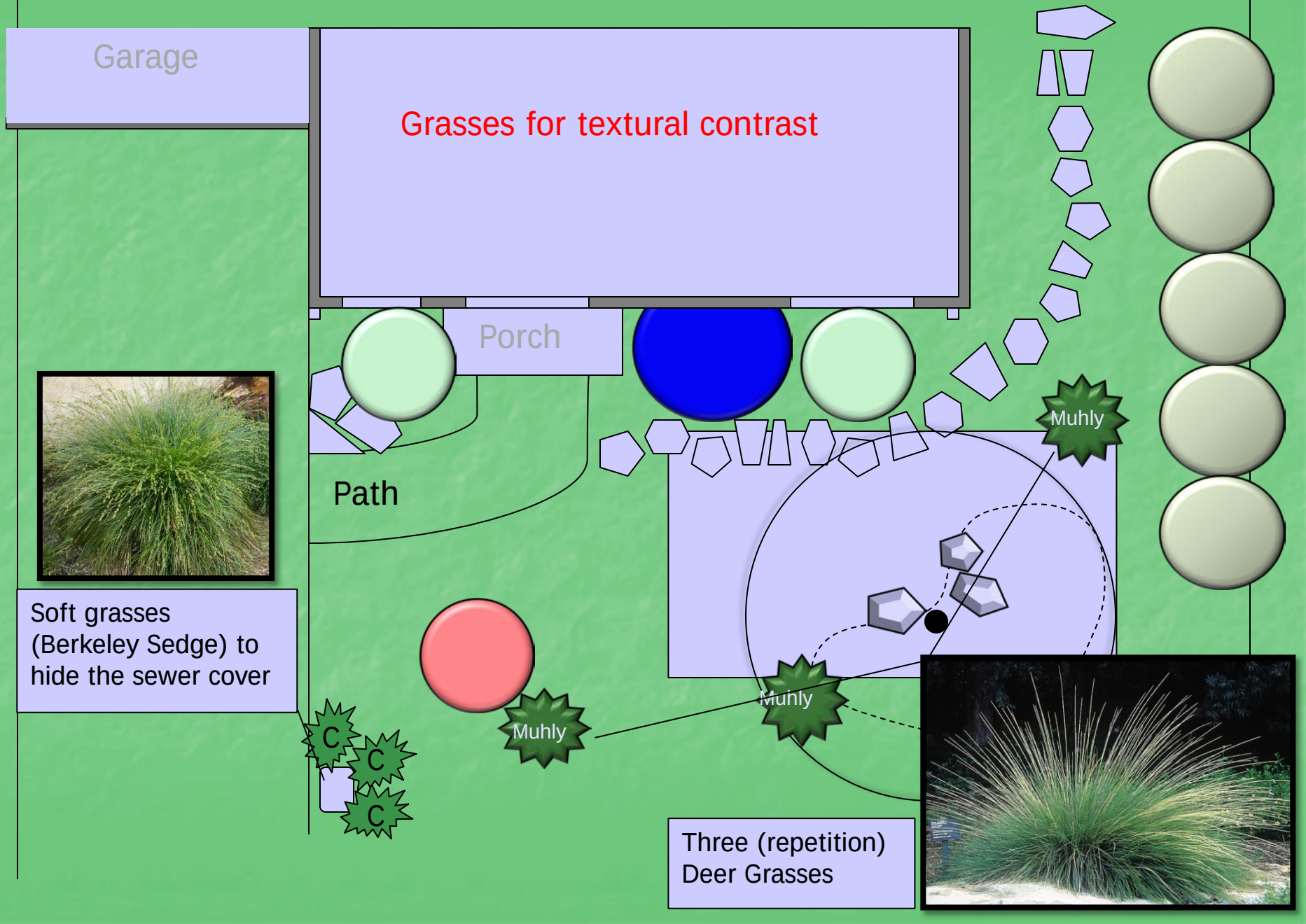
Medium Size Shrubs: The Smaller Bones



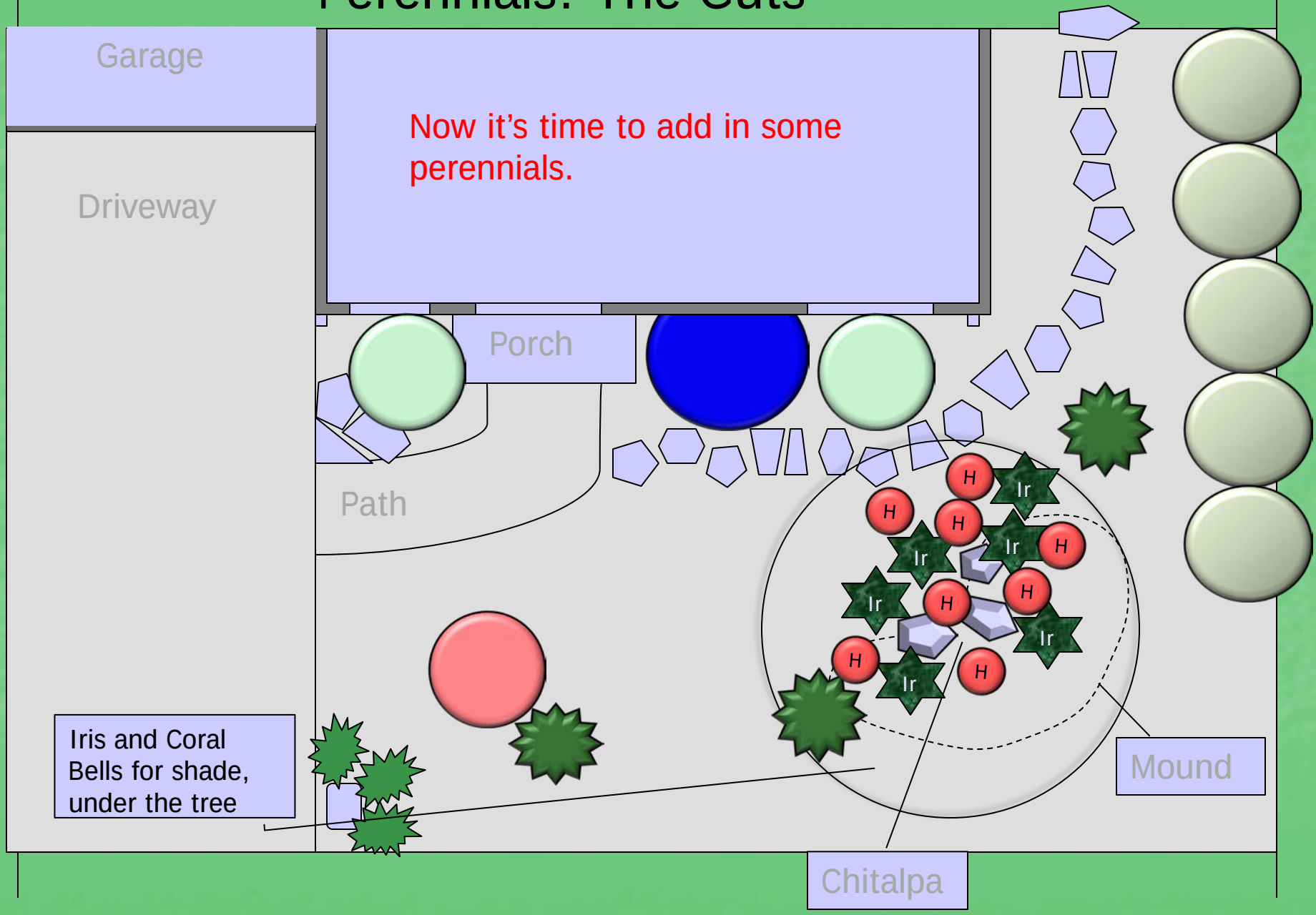
Medium Size Shrubs: The Smaller Bones



Medium Size Shrubs: The Smaller Bones



Perennials: The Guts



Perennials: The Guts

Garage

Driveway

Now it's time to add in some perennials.

Iris and Coral Bells for shade, under the tree

Porch

Path

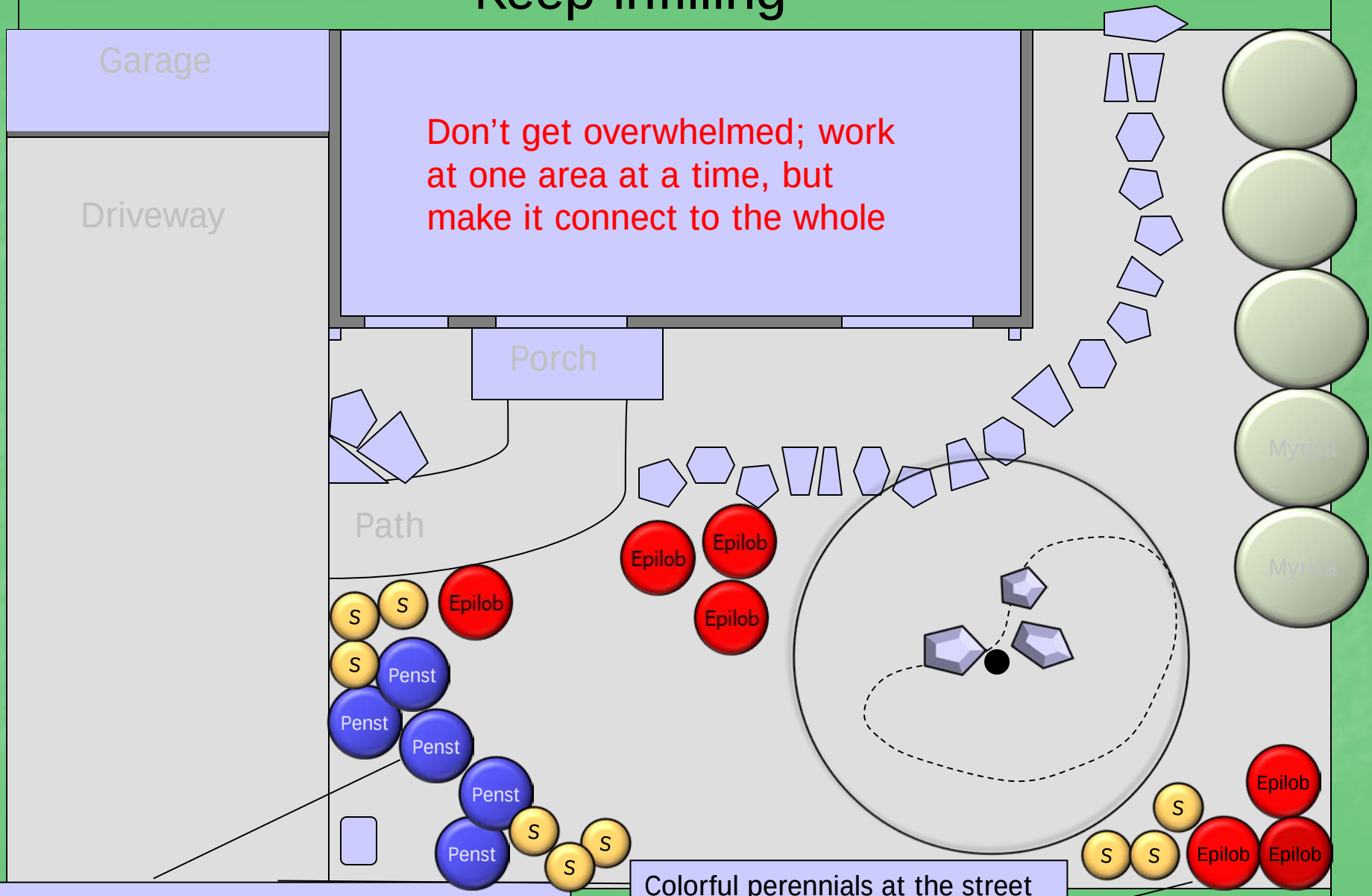
H

Ir

Mound

Chitalpa

Keep infilling



Sulfur Buckwheat, Calif Fuchsia and Foothill Penstemon perform in hot, dry areas.

Colorful perennials at the street
Tip: Keep plants plants low near walkways

Keep infilling

Garage

Driveway

Porch

Path

Don’t get overwhelmed; work at one area at a time, but make it connect to the whole

Epilob Epilob Epilob Epilob

S S Epilob

S S Penst

Penst Penst

Penst

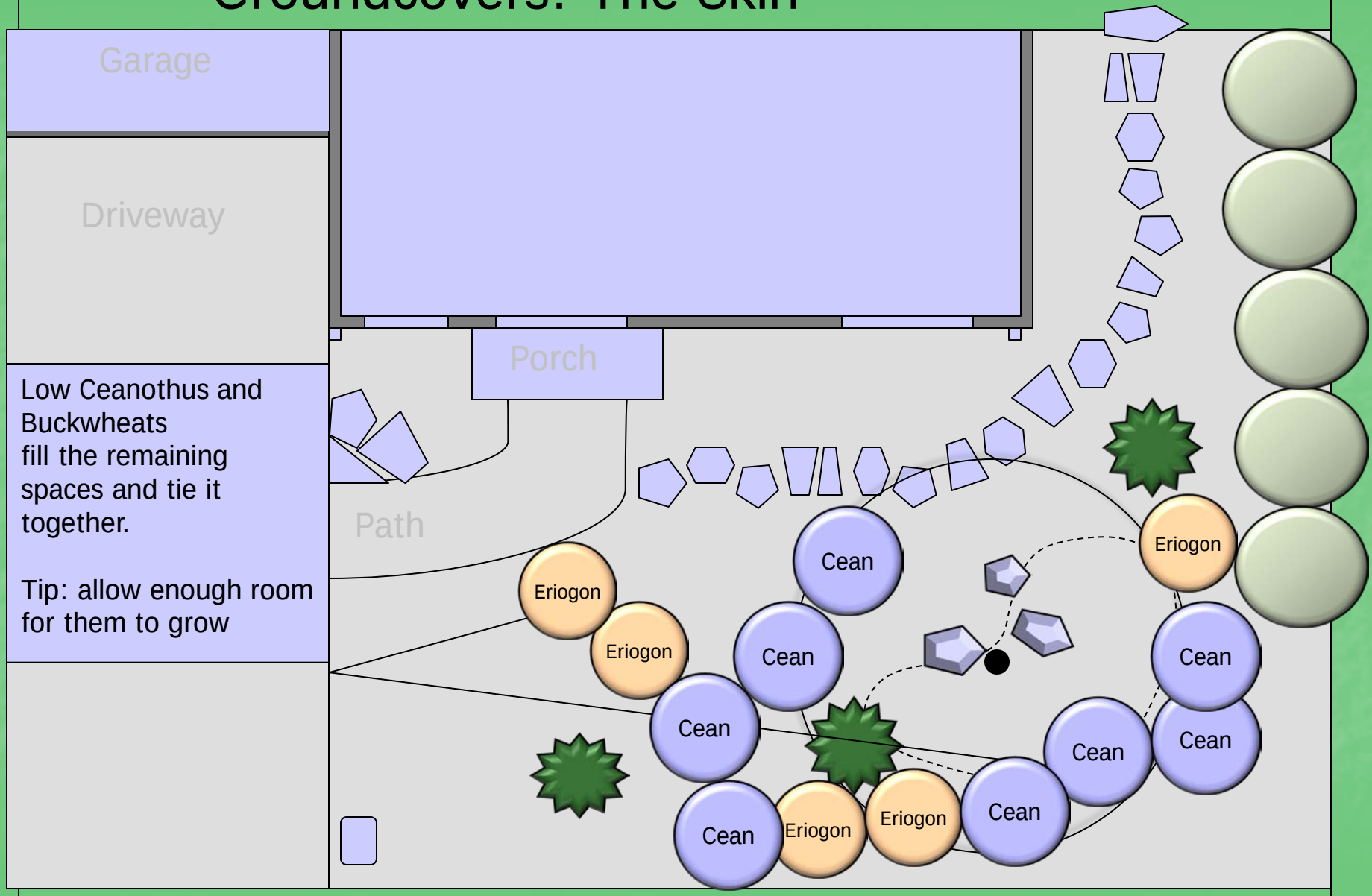
Penst S S S

S S Epilob Epilob Epilob

Sulfur Buckwheat, Calif Fuchsia and Foothill Penstemon perform in hot, dry areas.

Colorful perennials at the street
Tip: Keep plants plants low near walkways

Groundcovers: The Skin



Groundcovers: The Skin

Garage

Driveway

Porch

Path

Low Ceanothus and Buckwheats
fill the remaining spaces and tie it together.

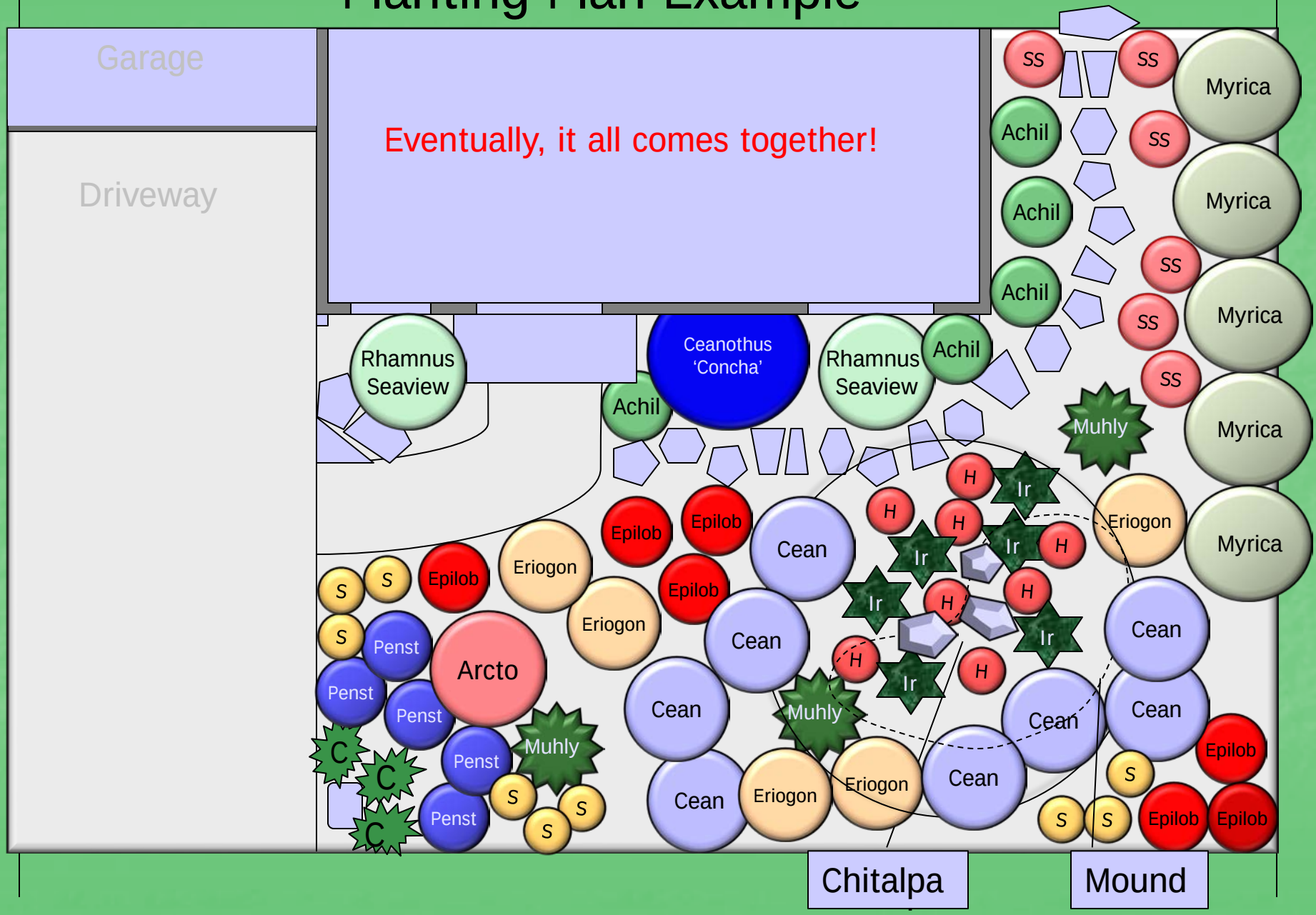
Tip: allow enough room for them to grow

Cean
Eriogon
Eriogon
Cean
Cean
Eriogon
Cean
Cean
Cean
Cean
Cean
Eriogon
Eriogon
Cean

Planting Plan (for ordering)

Botanical Name	*Common Name*	*Plant Type*
1 x Chitalpa tashkentensis	Chitalpa	Tree
1 Arctostaphylos ‘Louis Edmonds’	Manzanita	Specimen Shrub
1 Ceanothus ‘Concha’	California Lilac	Specimen Shrub
5 Myrica californica	Wax Myrtle	Screening
2 Rhamnus ‘Seaview’	Dwarf Coffeeberry	Foundation Shrub
5 Penstemon ‘Margarita BOP’	Foothill Penstemon	Perennial
7 Epilobium ‘Select Mattole’	California Fuchsia	Perennial
8 Ceanothus ‘Centennial’	California Lilac	Ground Cover
5 Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Perennial
3 Muhlenbergia rigens	Deer Grass	Architectural Grass
6 Salvia spathacea	Hummingbird Sage	Perennial
5 Eriogonum ‘Warriner Lytle’	California Buckwheat	Ground Cover
6 Iris ‘Canyon Snow’	Pacific Coast Iris	Accent Perennial
7 Heuchera ‘Wendy’	Coral Bells	Perennial
9 Eriogonum ‘Shasta Sulfur’	Sulfur Buckwheat	Perennial
3 Carex tumulicola	Berkeley Sedge	Clumping Grass

Planting Plan Example



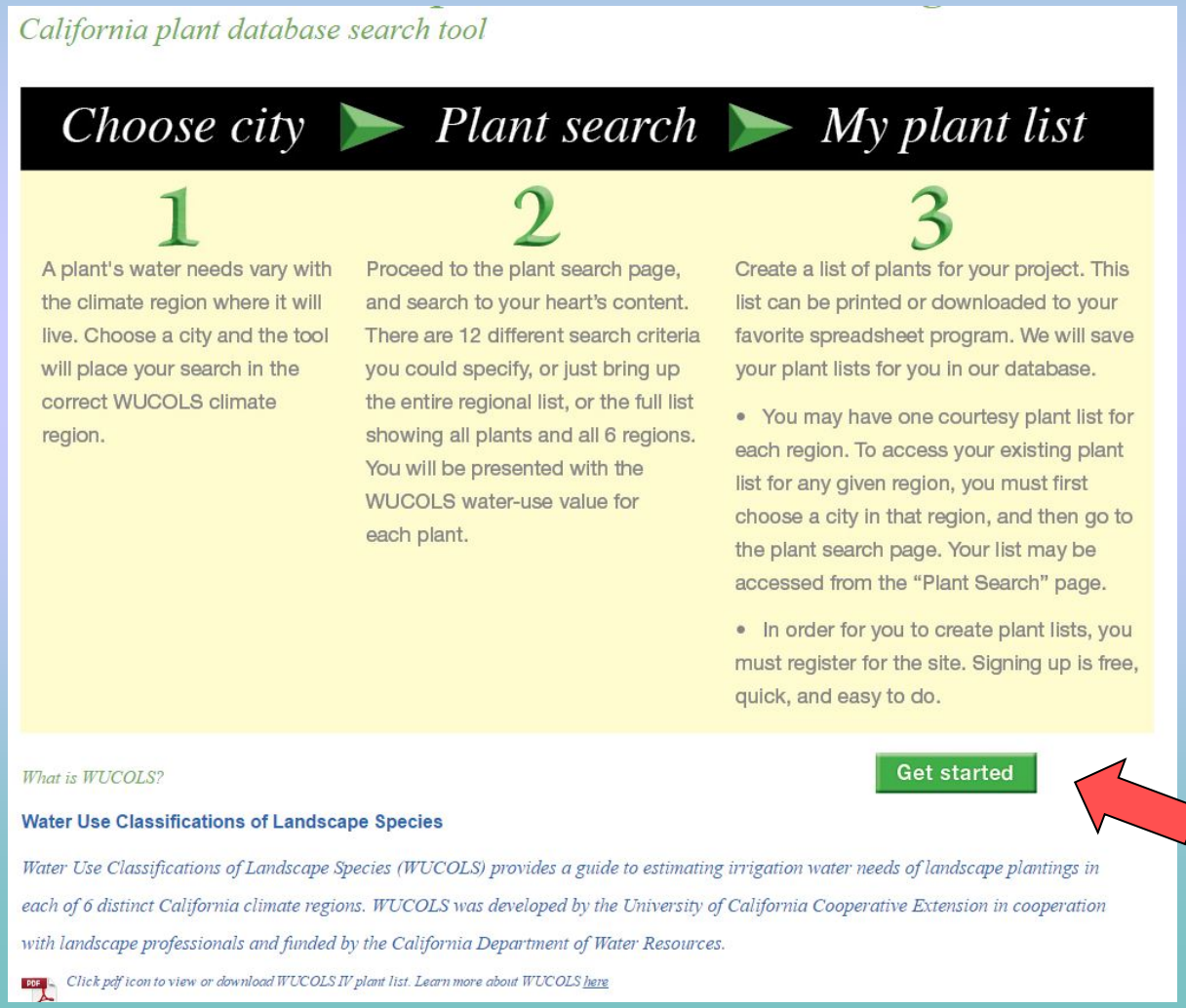
How to work with a professional and still save money

1. Make a list of goals/desires
2. Take pictures of landscapes you like
3. Create an accurate plot map in ¼” or 1/8” scale
4. Analyse your sun/shade patterns
5. Make a list of plants you like
6. Use a hose and chalk to determine shapes of hardscapes and write down square footages
7. Go to a building supply w/measurements to help establish materials and budget

- Then bring in a consulting designer to help you pull the elements together.

HELP WITH HYDROZONING!

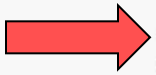
www.waterwonk.us



Choose City
to identify WUCOLS REGION

Show instructions

Find city in WUCOLS REGION — Go to Plant Search



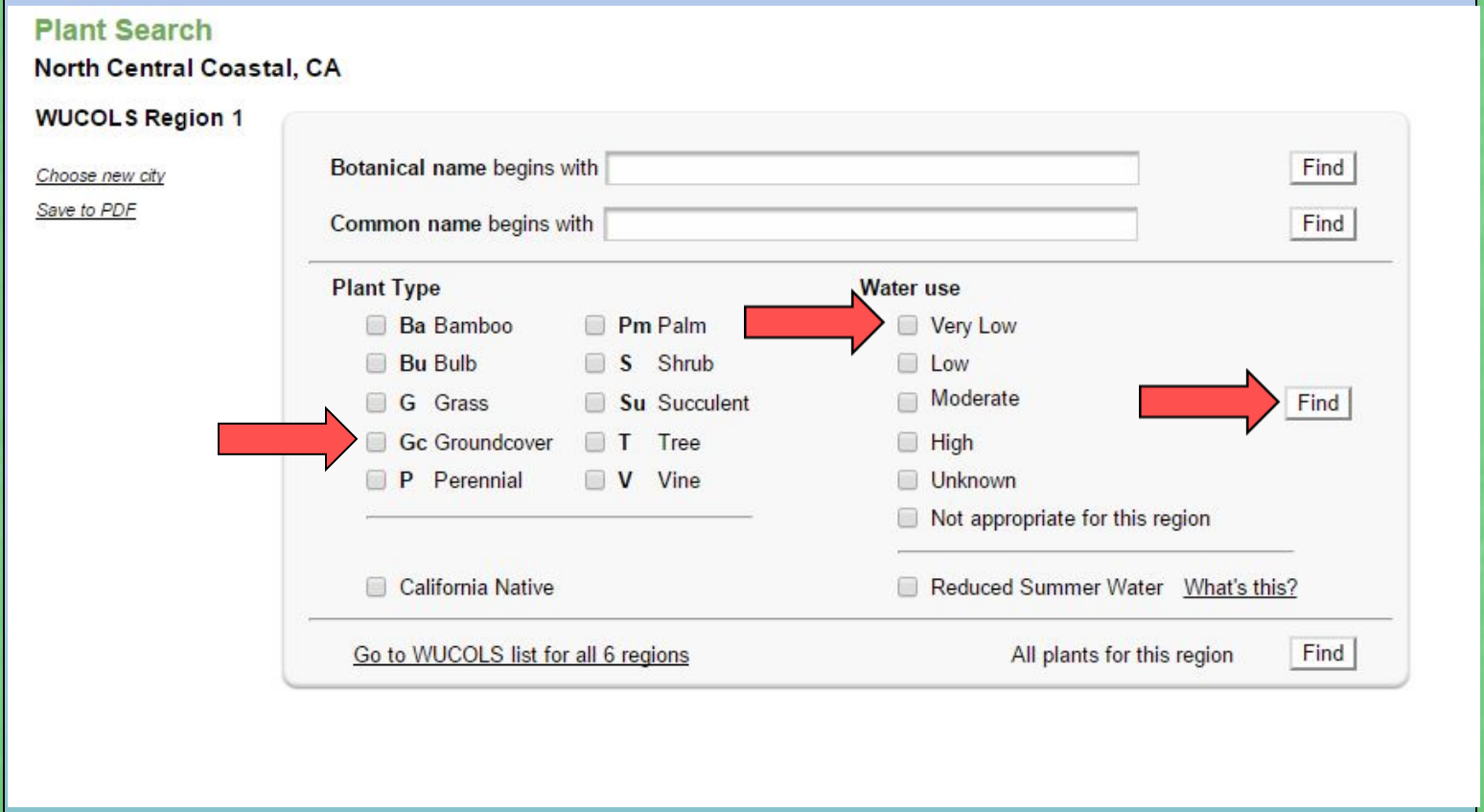
- 1 North Central Coastal
- 2 Central Valley
- 3 South Coastal
- 4 South Inland Valley
- 5 High and Intermediate Desert
- 6 Low Desert

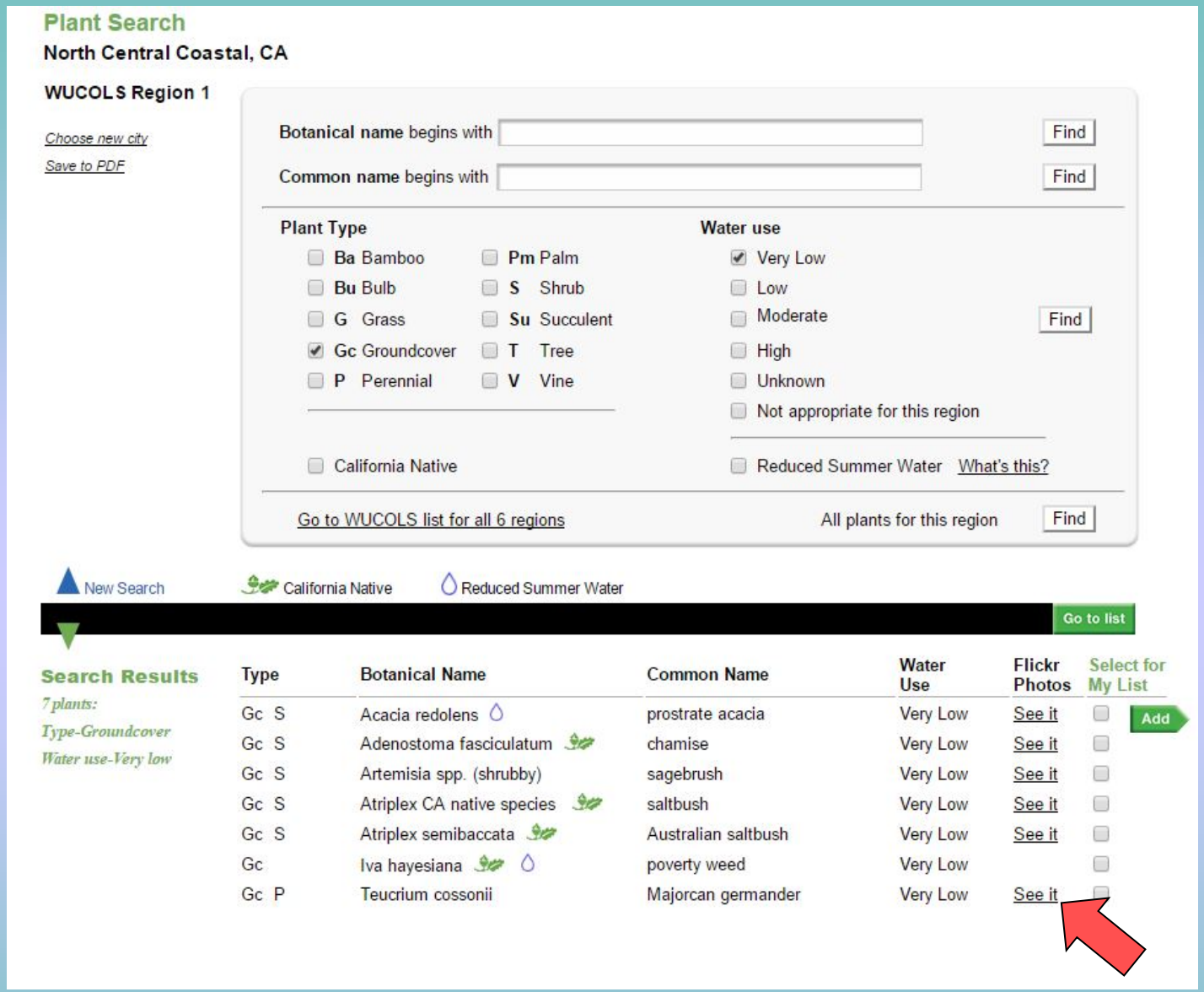
Or find by city name — Find city

Begins with

Search for a category

Example: very low water ground covers

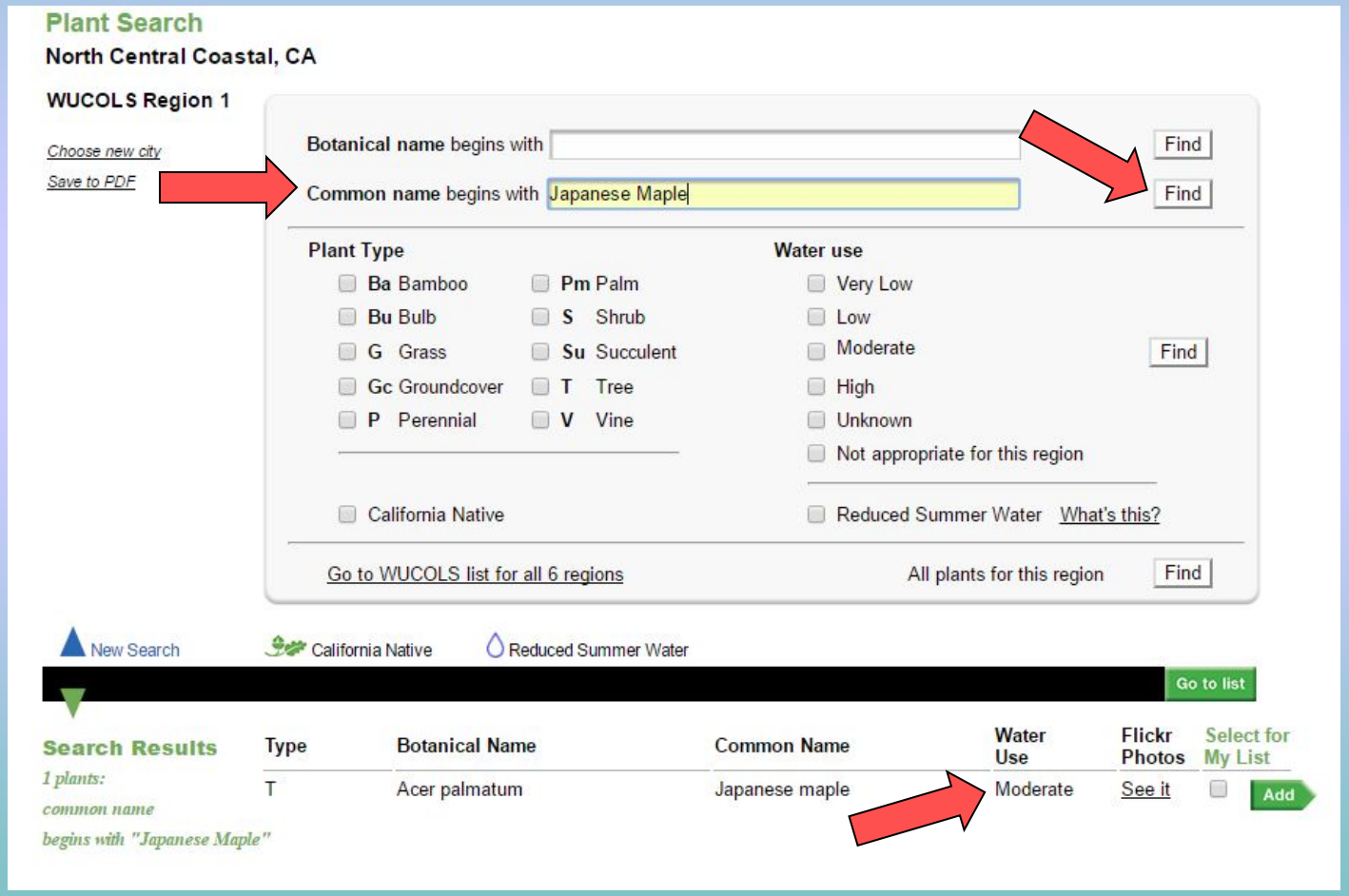




Results for “Very Low Groundcover”
Click on “See it” for a picture!

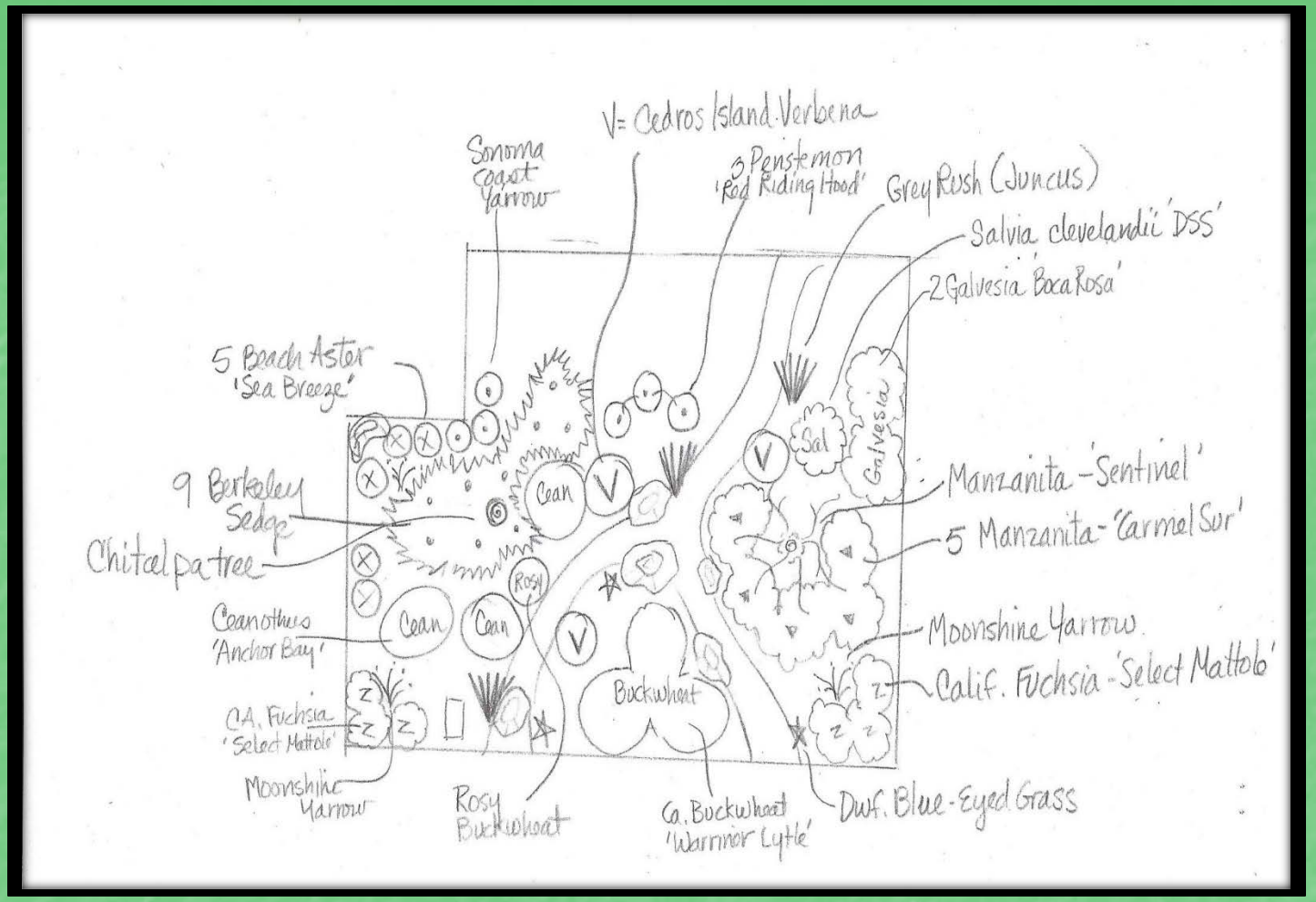
Teucrium cossoni - Majorcan Germander

Search for a plant
and find out its water requirement



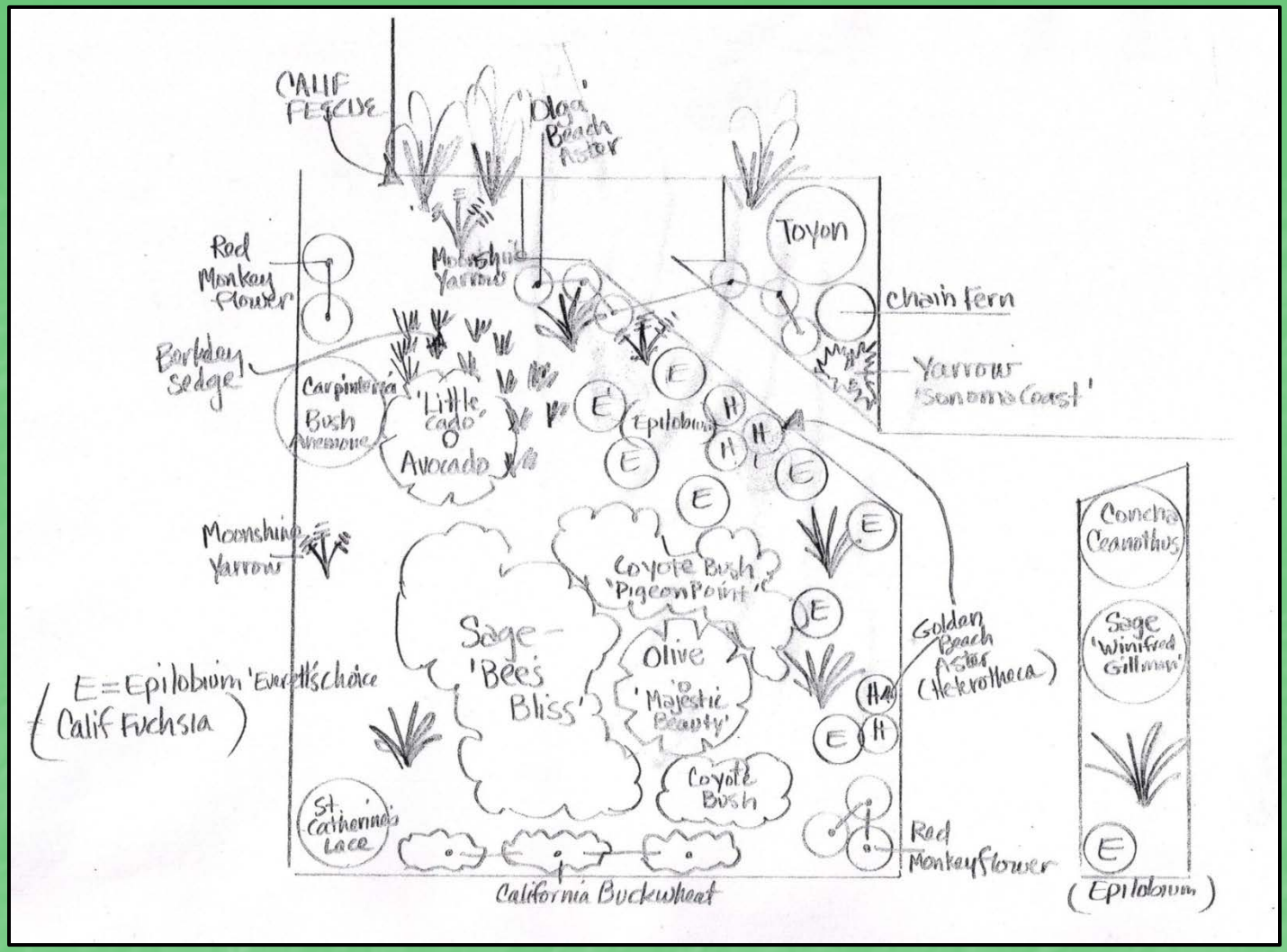
Some examples of

simple front yard installations



Design Sketch with Dry Creek

Installed Front Yard



Design Sketch with Olive Tree

Newly planted Oct. ‘09

Two years after planting

START WITH **THE END** IN MIND