



and a palette of succulents add color and drama to the mix. Colorful Leucadendrons and birds of paradise provide splashes of color to the garden almost year-round.

After less than one year, the garden looks completely transformed and will continue to fill in over time. The lush plantings are a far cry from the arid look one might expect from low-water plantings. Ocean Friendly Gardens come in all shapes,

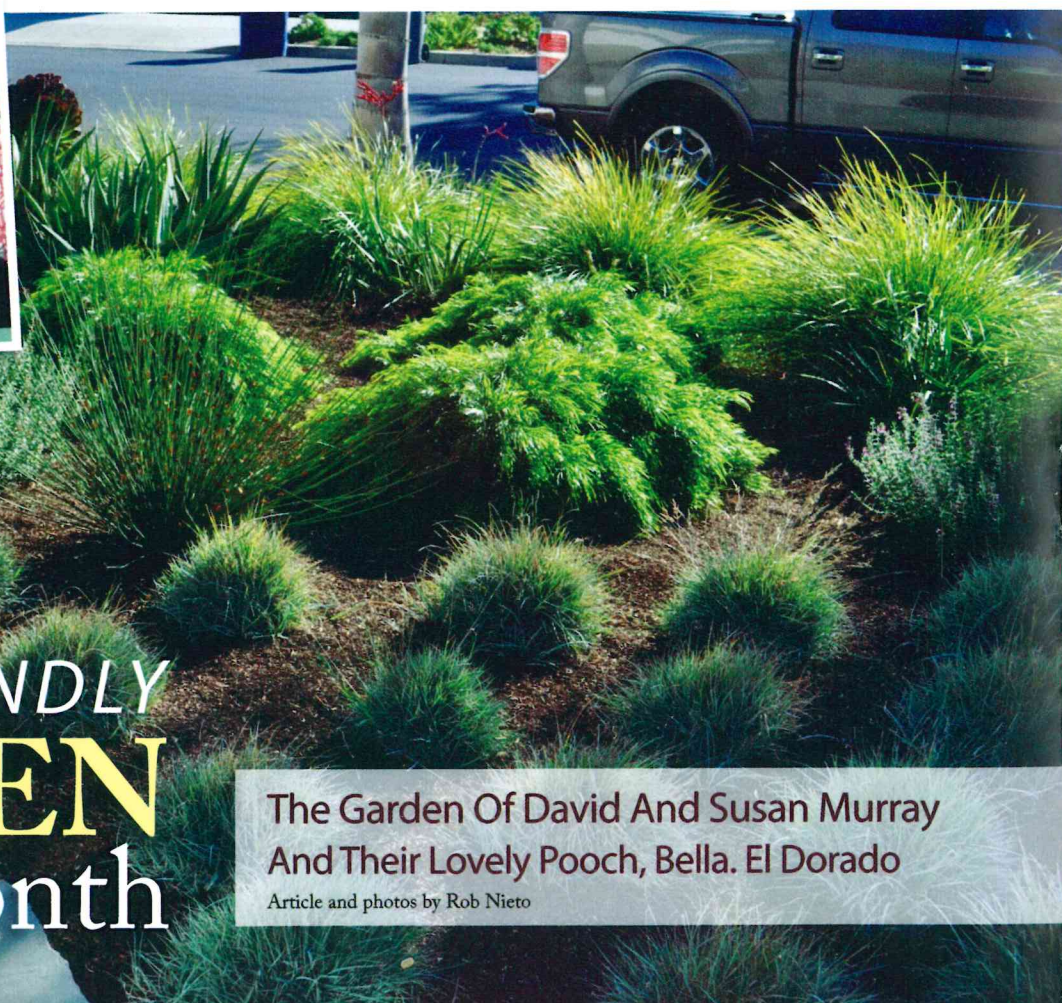
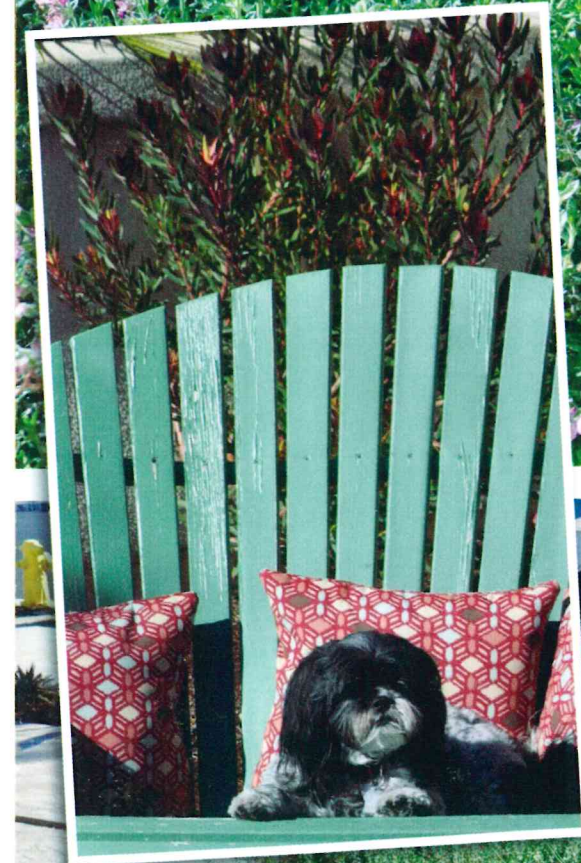
sizes and colors, offering something for everyone.

If you have a garden you would like featured, check out the Ocean Friendly Gardens criteria list at <http://www.surfrider.org>, then contact Robert Nieto at robert@robertnietodesigns.com. For more info about the OFG program, contact ofg@slo.surfrider.org.



[Rob lives on Indio Drive and, along with your Publisher, is an active supporter of The Surfrider Foundation, a grassroots non-profit environmental organization that works to protect and preserve the world's oceans, waves and beaches.]

This Ocean Friendly Garden was completed in January of this year as a complete renovation that involved the removal of a lawn that sloped straight down toward the street. Eleven cubic yards of organic mushroom compost were installed to improve infiltration of water and to boost the biological activity in the soil. In addition, the space was contoured to slow the flow of water across the site, especially important as the house has no gutters and rain will flow directly from the roof into the garden. To further assist in capturing water onsite, permeable paths and a small seating area were installed using flagstone installed on a decomposed granite base with *Dymondia margaretae* planted in the gaps between the stones. Water will travel through a small patch of *Carex flauca* (blue sedge), a low-water lawn alternative chosen for its unusual blue coloring. Drought tolerant and fast-growing, *Lomandra longifolia* "Breeze" at the front of the garden glistens in the afternoon sun and sways when the blows. Whimsical *Acacia* "Cousin Itt"



OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDEN of the month

The Garden Of David And Susan Murray And Their Lovely Pooch, Bella. El Dorado
Article and photos by Rob Nieto

OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDEN

CONSERVATION
of water, energy and habitat

PERMEABILITY
of soil and surfaces lets water slow down and sink

RETENTION
of rainwater and prevention of wet weather runoff

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