

## Garden Wise TV Episode 20: Do It Yourself

Have you ever bit off more than you could chew with a landscaping project? Has your irrigation system ever given you problems that you can't seem to figure out? Have you ever thought, "Can I do this project on my own, or is it time to hire a pro?" In this Garden Wise episode, local experts share their insight on when you can complete a project on your own, and when professional help can help make your garden beautiful, healthy, and sustainable!



We've learned in past Garden Wise episodes that one of the best ways to make your garden more sustainable is to get rid of your lawn. But, you may be wondering what to do with all of that new extra space in your yard. Billy Goodnick kicks off the episode with Ashley Farrell, of Ashely Farrell Landscape Design, to discuss possible ways to incorporate hardscapes, like patios and stairs, to transform your yard.

The first step is deciding what type of space you need. Common types of outdoor spaces are: recreational spaces, fruit or veggie gardens, storage space, or entertainment space and outdoor rooms. Once you've decided what type of space you want for your yard, Farrell explains that flooring and patios far away from the house are projects you can take on by yourself. Other do-it-yourself projects are fences, outdoor shading, and simple walkways. Opportunities to have a professional come in are dining areas and patios near the house, stairs on a big slopes, and retaining walls.

Next up, Billy Goodnick introduces us to Nate Zacharias, from AllScape Design, who will take us through the steps of how to plant a successful landscape! First, we must choose our plants with a purpose. You can visit Santa Barbara's [Water Wise Plan Database](#) to help you pick the most vibrant and sustainable plants for your garden! Then, Zacharias teaches us the easy steps to properly plant your own garden. Zacharias explains that hiring a professional can be useful when you have a lot of space you need to plant on or if you need to plant on a steep slope.



After Zacharias' planting lesson, Oscar Carmona, from Santa Barbara City College's Green Gardener Program and Healing Grounds Nursery, gives us insight on ways to cultivate a more sustainable landscape. Carmona emphasizes that homeowner and landscaper communication is key to maintaining a healthy landscape. For tips to help work successfully with your gardener, you can visit [WaterWiseSB.org/brochures](#). Another way you can learn more about creating a healthy, sustainable landscape is to visit your local demo garden at [WaterWiseSB.org/demogardens](#).



One more way you can help maintain a beautiful and water wise yard is by learning how to make some simple irrigation repairs, all on your own! Cathie Paré, Water Resources Specialist, guides us through easy repairs homeowners can do to make their irrigation system run more efficiently. Common clues that indicate something is wrong with your irrigation system are: yellow, dry patches, moss on your sidewalk, plants

that are dying, water in the curb, and a puddle around the sprinkler head. If any you've noticed any of these problems in your yard, Cathie advises you to turn on your system and use flags where you see a problem.

Once you find a problem in your irrigation system, you can go to Aqua-Flo Supply, located in Santa Barbara, to find irrigation and landscaping products that will help fix your problem in no time! You should consider getting a professional involved if you are having issues with your irrigation control or any wiring and electrical issues in your irrigation system. If you have any questions about your irrigation controller, take a picture and talk to an Aqua-Flo Supply specialist to help answer your questions.

Finally, Billy Goodnick shares his insight about killer plant combos that will help make your garden stand out! Goodnick emphasizes the importance of using the concepts of harmony and contrast in your landscape design. A killer plant combo has two or three plants that work well together and have harmonizing colors and texture, or have subtle color and texture contrasts.



Remember, we as individuals are all capable of creating positive change in our community and having a beautiful, efficient, water wise garden is part of the puzzle. Learn more by visiting our website [WaterWiseSB.org](http://WaterWiseSB.org).

