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A few Cliffs Notes

Here's some of what Pitzer College has learned about plant selection, irrigation and conservation of resources.

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- Keep only as much lawn as you need. Replace the rest with low-water, low-maintenance native plants, Mediterranean-climate plants, and succulents.
- Drip and low-pressure irrigation are best for all landscapes other than turf.
- Focus water use on plants that feed you.
- Succulents are easy to propagate, offer winter color and require very little maintenance.
- Aloes are best known for their coral and red winter blooms. But some bloom in spring, summer or fall. Growing different aloes ensures bloom nearly year-round.
- Joe Clements' favorite agaves to use in landscapes are the architectural *Agave victoria-reginae* and the artichoke-like *Agave parryi v. truncata*.
- Reuse or recycle as much material from your site as possible — rocks, cuttings, leaves, etc.
- Composting diverts some waste from landfills.
- Wood and metal benches are fine for formal garden seating, but in a more naturalistic setting, try a well-placed, flat boulder.
- There is no quick gardening. A sustainable garden takes four or five years to begin maturing. At that point, it requires some editing but little maintenance.

— Nan Sterman

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