

# Ocean Friendly Gardens Criteria



## Conservation

### Plants

- Non-invasive and climate-appropriate, unless edible
- Grouped by water need
- At least 10% of the plants are natives

### Turf Grass Areas

- No turf grass, OR kept to a minimum AND
- Climate-appropriate (rainfall keeps it healthy), maintained organically, and consider inter-seeding with nitrogen-fixing plants such as clover

### Irrigation

- Hand watering OR
- High efficiency irrigation system (drip, rotator sprinkler)
- Automatic irrigation controller, if present, has a rain shut-off device

## Permeability

### Healthy, Living Soil

- A minimum of 2 to 4 inches of natural mulch
- If fertilizing is needed, use of compost or worm castings and not commercial fertilizer
- No use of pesticides, herbicides or fungicides
- No landscape fabric (weed cloth)

### Hardscape

- Walkways and patios direct rainwater runoff to landscaping. They are made permeable by use of pavers or permeable materials OR by creating gaps and filling in with gravel or plants. For a next step, do the same for driveways.

## Retention

### Re-direct It

- Rainwater from the roof is directed to landscaping or a permeable area OR
- To rain tanks that overflow into permeable areas if that is not possible

### Soak It Up

- Use simple contours such as bio-swales, dry creeks, and basins
- Use of dry wells or the like if rainfall volume and lack of landscape space demands it

**OFG Map**  OK to post the garden \_\_\_\_\_ Sq. Ft. roof area \_\_\_\_\_ Sq. Ft. garden area

For the list of additional best practices, go to [surfrider.org/ofg](http://surfrider.org/ofg)