



UC  
MASTER  
GARDENERS  
NAPA COUNTY

# Healthy Garden Tips

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## CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLANT FOR THE RIGHT PLACE

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Here are some general principles that will help you choose plants that will work well in your garden. If you have questions, ask your nurseryman or a Master Gardener volunteer.

1. **Climate:** Plants that are acclimated to local heat and cold patterns grow better. Tender tropicals need more care and often suffer in our cold, dark winters.

2. **Exposure:** Many plant labels describe the best locations and optimum growing conditions.

Look for symbols indicating optimum growing conditions:

\*Full sun

\*Partial sun

\*Partial shade

\*Full shade

3. **Soil Needs:** A few plants have special soil requirements, such as alkaline or acidic, wet or dry.

4. **Water Needs:** Group plants with similar water needs together so they are easier to care for and are healthier. Plant labels usually indicate whether the plant is:

\*No water

\*Moderate water

\*Regular-Ample water

5. **Size:** Plants whose mature size matches available space are healthier and easier to care for. This is critical in small spaces and container gardens.

6. **Problem Plants:** Avoid species or varieties prone to local pest and disease problems. Choose plants with known disease and pest resistance. Your nursery staff can help.

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