

*1. When did you start working on your landscape?*

We bought our house in Dec. 2015 and probably starting the landscaping in spring '16. We hired someone to remove the grass, install an irrigation system, and bark.

*2. What inspired/motivated you to re-do your landscape? How long did it take to complete your landscape?*

We wanted to use less water. At my previous home, I removed one patch of grass at a time, planted fruit trees and eventually hired someone to redo the irrigation and filled in gaps with drought tolerant plants. It took years.

*3. Did you experience any set-backs or delays while working on your yard?*

No but it is an ongoing project.

*4. How would you describe your yard?*

A work in progress!

*5. Did you do it yourself, hired a professional, or a combination of both?*

Yes, aside from pre-existing older trees and two birds of paradise. The Woodland Tree organization planted a shade tree for us in the backyard.

*6. What type of plants did you use? Did you have a design plan in mind when choosing plants?*

Fruit trees, drought tolerant plants, and raised beds.

*7. Did you use any rebates that the city offers? Did you take a landscaping class?*

Yes, we had a rebate once when we added bark. It barely covered the cost. No landscaping class.

*8. Do you have background experience in landscaping?*

No

*9. Does your landscape use any pesticides? If the answer is no, how do you fight against pests?*

No. (I curse at them.) The pill bugs do a lot of damage to vegetables. The biggest problem we have is with a bug leaves sap on the almond tree fruits and ruins the nuts. The only pesticide available is toxic so we can't harvest the almonds.

*10. How often do you water your yard? What system of irrigation do you use?*

We tend to water twice a week and three times under extreme heat. I supplement the vegetable garden when necessary.

*11. Does your landscape attract birds and/or beneficial insects? If so, what kind have you seen? What part of your landscape does wildlife seem the most attracted to?*

There are several feral cats that spend time in our yard. We do have bird feeders. We occasionally see hummingbirds, western blue birds, doves, lots of jays, an occasional hawk. We see ladybugs, earthworms, and praying mantises.

*12. Did you have a budget set? Where you able to stay within that budget or did you go over/under?*

No. It's really been a bit at a time. I buy plants when I see something interesting. Not everything survives.

*13. Anything else you would like to share. This could include any advice or lesson's learned from working on your own yard that you would like to share.*

I wish I knew more. I also wish I had more time to keep it in shape. I could probably find a before picture but I don't have time right now.