

Mediterranean-Inspired Garden

Southern California's weather and flora have been identified with Mediterranean climates, but Los Angeles' aridity is similar to dry and desert climates on many continents and is often favorable to the plants of these varied topographies. Understanding this climate influences this low-water front yard design.

An orthogonal geometry splits the yard into three distinct areas—the parkway, a back-of-sidewalk zone, and a garden zone adjoining the house. Defining either side of the sidewalk, rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Boule') creates a two-foot-high carpet adjacent to the public right-of-way.

Two circular clusters of smaller Dwarf Myrtles (*Myrtus communis* "Compacta") are placed on opposite sides of the entry walk and add summer color, one surrounding a medium-sized *Arbutus* 'Marina' (Strawberry Tree) that blooms in fall and winter. The other is complemented by a clump of Mediterranean Fan Palms (*Chamaerops humilis*).

Drought resistant Lily of the Nile (*Agapanthus Praecox orientalis*) can be planted in beds adjoining these groupings to visually extend the neighboring lawns—and *Bougainvillea* "California Gold" forms a colorful perimeter of warm season vines climbing the house walls.

