

A Bit About the Yard...

The Grasses

The back yard has several grassy areas with an unconventional look. These are native grasses, plants that once naturally dominated the meadows and woodlands of Corralitos. They are drought tolerant, low maintenance, wildlife friendly, and beautiful.

Under the oaks, you'll find tall wavy grasses with a somewhat 'rough' look. Oak leaves disappear into these grasses. Wildflowers emerge from areas in different seasons. Gardening under oaks is difficult because of the shade and leaves (and because native oaks suffer when watered) – this is our solution. These areas are always beautiful and require just one mowing and one watering each year.

In the fuller sun, there are areas of short grasses and areas of tall grasses. The short grass is California oatgrass, a blue-green bunchgrass that remains green throughout the year with almost no water - its roots are 5 feet deep! This grass doesn't grow tall and it doesn't seem to mind being walked on. It is slow growing and is only just beginning to fill in many areas. The taller grasses are a large variety of textures, colors and shapes. These areas do not require water or mowing, wildflowers adorn many patches and flower in various seasons.

The Orchard

There are 16 orchard trees planted along the sides of the back yard. There is one old tree, a Pippin apple, a popular apple type for Corralitos apple growers. The rest of the trees are in their fourth year. The orchard is already producing plentiful fruit and the trees now require little pruning. The trees are alternated with flowering passion fruit and clematis which cover the fence.

These are the trees on the left hand side of the yard, as you face out, from front to back: the old Pippin apple, black mulberry, 2 yellow peaches, a tropical sapote, 2 pie cherries, 2 white peaches, Santa Rosa plum, Black Mission fig, and a walnut. Amongst these trees are a nopales cactus, red raspberries, black currant bushes, and an edible passion fruit.

These are the trees on the right hand side of the yard, from front to back: Braeburn apple, asian pear, Bartlett pear, seckle pear, and a bosch pear. These trees are pruned in the espaliered style (a living fence), to save space. On this side, there is also an understory of red raspberries.