



PLANT CARE GUIDE

California Cottage Garden

Designed for Layered Beauty and Daily Enjoyment

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CALIFORNIA COTTAGE GARDEN

SEASONAL CARE GUIDE

Designed for Layered Beauty and Daily Enjoyment
Zone 10b | Full Sun

GENERAL GUIDELINES

This care guide is tailored for warm-climate gardens like those in Southern California or coastal Zone 10b—if you're gardening in a colder zone, some timing and plant behavior may differ.

- Water deeply 1–2x per week during the first year. Reduce to weekly or less once established.
- Use well-drained soil and apply compost annually.
- Mulch 2–3" in spring; refresh as needed.
- Fertilize lightly in spring with organic or slow-release blends.

SEASONAL PLANT CARE

SPRING (March–May)

- Prune lavender, rosemary, and Knockout roses.
- Cut back ornamental grasses and verbena to 4–6".
- Plant replacements or additions before May.
- Deadhead Marguerite daisy, agapanthus, and verbena.

SUMMER (JUNE–AUGUST)

- Water deeply in dry spells.
- Trim lightly after bloom to tidy up.
- Monitor pests (aphids, mites) and treat organically.
- Train jasmine vines as needed.

FALL (SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER)

- Light pruning of shrubs and vines.
- Apply compost and refresh mulch.
- Plant perennials for strong root growth.

WINTER (DECEMBER–FEBRUARY)

- Water only during droughts.
- Clear leaf buildup only where airflow is limited—leaving some leaf matter can support beneficial insects and conserve soil moisture.
- Light pruning for deciduous trees in late winter—if needed. Many Zone 10b gardens require minimal winter intervention..

PLANT-SPECIFIC NOTES

Common Name	Care Tip
African Fern Pine	Clip lightly to shape; drought-tolerant once established
Western Redbud	Prune only in late winter; remove suckers if needed
Confederate Jasmine	Prune after spring bloom to keep tidy

Blushing Knockout Rose	Deadhead regularly; hard prune in late winter
French Lavender	Shear back by one-third after bloom
Marguerite Daisy	Deadhead often; cut back in fall
Rosemary	Light spring trim to maintain shape
Verbena	Cut back mid-season for more blooms
Agapanthus	Remove spent flower stalks; divide clumps every few years
Dietes (Fortnight Lily)	Trim dead leaves and spent blooms
Rose of Sharon	Prune in late winter; blooms on new wood
Mondo Grass	No pruning needed; divide as needed

GARDEN RHYTHM TIP

Set a seasonal reminder (spring + fall) to refresh mulch, trim perennials, and walk the garden with a cup of coffee—it's the best way to notice what needs care.