

## Sidy Residence (Elevation 4472 ft.) – Garden Tour

### Years occupancy:

38 (Original house from 1981 rebuilt in 1997)

### Original vegetation:

Desert grassland, shrub oak, mesquite, barberry, yuccas, cactus, etc.

### Lot Size:

½ acre

### Landscape goals:

- Introduce plants compatible with Piñon-Juniper vegetation zone
- Create shade
- Play area for children
- Make space for vegetable garden
- Use plants that are drought tolerant
- Use local plants, materials and rocks to define spaces
- Use flowering shrubs and ground covers
- Do everything on a low budget.

### What is important to us:

- Color, texture, fragrance
- Flowers for bouquets
- Organic vegetables
- A natural look
- Different zones with different characteristics and uses
- Respect, preserve, introduce and appreciate native plants
- Experiment with different plants and propagation methods
- Create an environment of variety, beauty and relaxation.

### Some Definitions:

- **Xeriscape** = Landscape with low water use plants, efficient irrigation, turf located only where functionally needed and close to house to provide cooling effect, improve and mulch soil to conserve water.
- **Naturalize** = Plants that self-propagate and thrive without human intervention, usually by spreading their seeds or by layering.
- **Layering** = Plant propagation by rooting branches or runners that lie on the ground. Examples are Manzanita, Rosemary, Apache Plume, Sedum, Thyme, Mint, Violets, Vinca

### Other Sustainability Features:

- 5000 Watt Photovoltaic solar system supplies electricity + battery storage
- Greenhouse increases interior warmth in winter; provides place for plants
- Automatic irrigation system
- Compost and/or chip and shred garden and household waste
- Rechargeable battery-powered lawn mower
- Entire property fenced with wire stock fencing to prevent javalina, rabbits, deer, stray range cattle and coyotes from entering.

# Garden Walking Guide: What to Look For

*Match descriptions below to numbered marker stake to see examples*

## **Garden Zones and Descriptions**

### 1. Front Yard: Low Water Use Zone

- **Ground Covers:** Sedums, Creeping Thyme, Yarrow, native grasses, Salt Sage
- **Flowering Shrubs:** Lavenders, Rosemary, Sage, Chaparral Sage, Texas Ranger Sage, Snake Weed, Rock Rose, Manzanita, Cactus, Red Yucca, Apache Plume, Roses
- **Flowers** (in season): (bulbs/tubers) Bearded Iris, Day Lilies, Daffodils, Crocus, Hyacinth; (wild flowers) Penstemons, Asters, Gaillardia, Mexican Hat, Green eyes, Blue Flax, Echinacea, Coreopsis, Salvias, Columbines

2. Rainwater Pond: Rainwater from house downspouts collects on property rather than running off to street. Rock gardens create a natural looking dry “wash.”

3. Manzanita mixed with Arizona Cypress and other native shrubs creates a natural enclosure. All Manzanita were grown from rooted cuttings from layered branches and transplanted around perimeter of property.

4. Looking back towards the front gate: A low-maintenance, low water use, naturalized setting with a mix of grasses, lavenders, varied shrubs and flowers.

5. Transition Zone: Native and non-native shrubs (Mahonia, Squaw Bush and Heavenly Bamboo) trees, Irises, ground cover of sedum, violets, and grasses.

6. Wet and Shady zone: Turf of mixed fescues (from seed, slow growing, green all year, tolerates dry periods), Lilacs, Roses, Penstemons, mixed shrubs and flowers.

7. Flagstone pathways pass another dry zone of blue grama turf, sedum, and rock gardens with herbs, sages and drought hardy perennials.

8. Managed natural desert grassland zone: Mixed native grasses, snakeweed, wild buckwheat, globe mallow, yuccas, barberry, shrub oak. All unwanted weeds and annual grasses have been culled and eliminated over the years before reseeding. Dwarf and semi-dwarf fruit trees integrated into native landscape; wood chip pathways.

9. Transition zone: Inner courtyard and rock garden with herbs, grasses, garlic chives, flowers and native shrubs. Apricot, Bay Laurels, Spanish Broom, Grape vine.

10. Native and ornamental mix: Shrub Oak, Squaw Bush, Barberry, Desert Willow, Arizona Cypress, Penstemons, Autumn Sage, Ornamental Pomegranate, Nanking Cherry, Iris, Rue, Mint.

11. Year-round vegetable garden: Summer crops gradually ending while fall and winter crops are started.

12. Patio container garden and bed. This is where we put early starts before we transplant them. Containers of basil, experimental plants, flowers for color.