



# LINDA J. NOVY & ASSOCIATES

Sustainable Landscape Management  
Horticultural Consulting for Residential and Commercial Properties



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A natural rainwater garden captures, sinks and spreads water.

## *Dear Customers and Friends,*

Last month I attended two interesting workshops, and want to share this information with you.

A reminder, the Spring Equinox is on March 20, and we will see increased activity in the garden as the days grow longer.

**SUSTAINABLE SITES—PILOT PROJECT PHASE.** Be the first to participate, and thus gain national attention for your project, by being a part of the Sustainable Sites (SITES) Pilot Projects. Over the last four years, a Product Development Committee representing 11 organizations and technical subcommittees comprised of more than 30 experts, have been identifying best management practices and standards for SITES. Now, SITES moves into its pilot project phase. By February 15, 2010, from 75 to 150 pilot projects are requested for urban, suburban, corporate parks, recreation areas, single residences, and brown fields, so long as the project exceeds 2,000 square feet. Fees range from \$500 to \$5,000 depending on project size, and projects will be evaluated using the SITES point system. For more information and to submit your entry, go to [www.sustainablesites.org](http://www.sustainablesites.org). The SITES point system has four levels of certification, and focuses on how people maintain, protect and restore ecosystems services. Why are landscapes important to us? They impact many aspects of our natural and built environment ranging from vegetative carbon capture, cooling and shading, habitat restoration, storm water capture, filtering, water quality, and much more! Careless land practices degrade our environment, but with good ecological stewardship, landscapes can begin to heal themselves and begin a process of regeneration. I can assist you with a sustainable landscape assessment for SITES, and also your project submittal.

**RAINWATER—CAPTURE IT, SINK IT, SPREAD IT, SLOW IT!** At a Rainwater Harvesting certification workshop presented by the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association ([www.arca.org](http://www.arca.org)) the speaker reviewed the history of rainwater harvesting through current practices. Rainwater harvesting was common among early settlers, and as urban populations grew, common water sources were developed. Now, this strategy is returning to its site specific roots! Capturing rainwater and storing it in above or below ground tanks provides excellent water for many uses, and reduces impacts from storm water runoff. Roofs (and green roofs) are the primary capture technique. For example, 1" of rain falling on a 2,000-square-foot roof yields 1,200 gallons of water. For smaller roofs, barrels are a good first step. Rain gardens—depressions in the ground graded to capture rainwater—are planted with suitable vegetation that can sustain periods of wet and dry. These gardens capture, filter, and slow the flow of water so that it can sink and spread back into the earth, recharging water supplies, while reducing storm water run off. SITES calls for significant reduction in potable water use, and relies on incorporating gray water and rain water harvesting.

**DIG OUT YOUR SEEDS AND GET YOUR TROWELS READY!** There's a new class at the College of Marin, Kentfield Campus: **VICTORY GARDENS FOR 2010** (Course number #35164). This is a two-hour class on seven consecutive Saturday mornings, 10am-12pm, April 10-May 22. My sister, Norma Novy, a Master Gardener and past co-owner of Mellinor Farms Nursery, and I will be teaching this new class at the College of Marin. We'll provide history about Victory Gardens and the evolution of best management practices. We'll discuss cost effective, eco-friendly organic gardening principles, and help class attendees evaluate their sites and prepare their gardens for this growing season.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE.** Please, call me at (415) 457-5268 or e-mail me at [lindanovy@comcast.net](mailto:lindanovy@comcast.net) if you'd like more information or assistance with your property's landscape. In the next months, I'll bring important news about AB 1881, the state's new water conservation initiative, gray water trends, living walls and how these relate to your property!

With best regards,

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Water can be captured in any size container.



Residential Rainwater HOG installed. ([www.rainwaterhog.com](http://www.rainwaterhog.com))



Victory Gardens for 2010— Learn about creating your very own vegetable garden!