

State Fair proves gardens don't need a ton of water

By Debbie Arrington, Sacramento Bee

This summer, a golden garden greets visitors to the State Fair Farm. Hundreds of bees buzz from bed to bed, collecting pollen from sunburst-bright gloriosa daisies and honey-hued coreopsis. Hummingbirds dart among the fuzzy kangaroo paws and pretty penstemons, giving fairgoers an extra thrill.

But unlike previous floral displays at the fair, this new permanent garden demonstrates an important point: Saving water can be beautiful.

"We went for a lot of color," explained landscape expert Julie Saare-Edmonds of the state Department of Water Resources. "We wanted to show how beautiful a water-efficient garden can be. It's not sticks and rocks."

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