

Guerilla Gardening as Alternative to Spraying of Urban Sites:

Contact FRANK SNAPP at Pallas89juno@yahoo.com with ANY questions.

Guerilla Gardening is just doing something in the present about public spaces that currently are likely sprayed by your City with herbicides and are otherwise neglected through no maintenance or poor maintenance. Poor maintenance includes maintenance of mono-cultural plantings (just a few or even five species is a monoculture) that provide no ecosystem for insect, bird and other animal and plant bio-masse diversity, which is more important than how a space looks for selling real property, more important than fire suppression and more important than contributing to the convenience of maintenance budgets of municipalities. This is because we are facing runaway global warming, the likes of which the earth has not seen in 25 million through 55 million years. We have no choice but to make the right choice, which is get out there and garden our asses off.

How do you start? You start by just doing! I plant seeds from www.wildseedfarms.com

to get a vacant street median strip, for instance going. These seeds are inexpensive, sold by the ounce-pound in bulk and germinate well from this company. They do best in sandy or rocky soil, but will do well anywhere the soil has been disturbed through cultivation or with a metal rake or long-handled claw. Plant these in the season that is appropriate for your climate. Here in California along the coast that is in fall. In the East and mountains, it would be toward the last frosts of spring. In the Deep South, in fall or anytime in southern FL is appropriate. In the high deserts plant in early spring, and plant in fall in the warmer low deserts for early spring flowers and lots of butterflies in the warm to hot days of later spring.

Guerilla Gardening is perfect for the *apartment dweller* who wants to see fruits of their labors that benefit nature and the earth first above the needs of humans. The nice thing is that planting things in medians benefits both. I don't recommend planting food plants in street medians and other places historically pesticide contaminated as the first thing. As a matter of fact, one ought to wait several years before doing this unless you can bring in new soil where pesticides have been used for years, in most cases.

Guerilla Gardening is fantastic exercise and a great way to meet your neighbors. There's a lot of opportunity to draw the positive attention of people, your neighbors and your City who also want to get active; so just do it!!! If you meet with resistance, try to be diplomatic but go underground and just keep doing it!!! Remember the saying from another guerilla group, "Resistance is Fertile!"