

Front yard makeover continued

It has been six weeks since the [last post](#) - shame on me! I really am trying to be better about this and do hope that I have not lost too many of you. After posting on October 18th I went into plant sale mode, preparing for the annual plant sale for the [San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of California Native Plant Society](#). We sold loads of plants, raised money to support efforts to understand and protect California's unique and beautiful flora, and met many new people and old friends who share our passion for gardening with California native plants.

The following weekend was full of talks, demonstrations and delicious foods made from California native plants. [Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden's](#) first ever [California Native Food Symposium](#) was a real treat. I'm sure it was loads of work to put this program together but I do hope it is just the first of a continuing series. Regardless, I now have white sage, Pacific Blue sage and yerba buena hanging in my laundry room (it would be in the kitchen if I didn't have mischievous cats). I also made some chickweed (I know it is not native to CA) pesto. I learned at the RSABG food table that sunflower seeds work well as a substitute for China-grown, but still expensive, pine nuts. I also added a bit of wild sage.

The week after the symposium we started planting the monarch waystation in the [South Pas nature park](#). Although I haven't had time to write about it, the gardening season has been a busy one.

So today I finally got to work in my own garden and it was glorious. In an effort to brighten up the burned out look of the front yard since the [avocado tree came down](#), I put in a bunch of flowery lovelies:

1. *Solanum xanti* 'Mountain Pride' (1 - 1g)
2. *Verbena lilacina* 'De La Mina' (4 - 1g)
3. *Sisyrinchium bellum* (5 - 1g)
4. *Fragaria chilensis* (4 - 1g)
5. *Penstemon heterophyllus* 'Electric Blue' (2 - 1g)

Here's what it looks like:

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