Workshops focus on withstanding drought

Santa Cruz Ecology Action’s Nicole Douglas is doing a series of free presentations — open to anyone who wants a thriving garden in times of drought and beyond — during three Saturdays in September and October. Attendees will learn how to remove their existing (most likely dead) lawn and fill the space with “beautiful, drought-tolerant plants” using a technique called “sheet mulching.”

Discussion topics will include lawn removal techniques; conversion of overhead spray irrigation to drip irrigation; and proper selection of water-wise California native and Mediterranean plants. Rebates are available from local water districts to customers who implement these changes. All workshops consist of a classroom portion in the morning followed by a hands-on installation at a local site.

Attendees must RSVP at www.centralcoastgreywater.org. Here are the dates, times and locations:

- Sept. 13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Scotts Valley Water District, 2 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley.
- Oct. 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Scotts Valley Water District, 2 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley.
- Oct. 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Cabrillo Horticulture Center, Room 5300, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos.