

## CONSERVE WATER

### 1. Create drought resistant soils

- A. By incorporating 2-4 inches of compost into the soil you will increase the water holding capacity of the soil
- B. Topdressing compost around plants will reduce water needs but not up to the plant base. *Space @ the base.*
- C. Mulch all exposed soil to reduce evaporation with bark, leaf litter or rocks



#### Benefit:

- Reduced water usage

### 2. Grow California or Mediterranean natives

Check out the UC Arboretum All-Stars

- A. Plants thrive with little irrigation
- B. Planting in the fall allows the roots to grow without competition
- C. Irrigate until established
- D. Minimize high water use ornamentals



#### Benefit:

- Reduce watering
- Reduce trimming
- Reduce fertilizing
- Reduce spraying

### 3. Minimize the Lawn

- A. The use of native groundcovers, grasses, shrubs and trees make an eye catching garden

- B. Reduce the size of the lawn and plant Tall fescue. It is a cool season grass that does well in summer. Most cool season grasses need a lot of water to look good
- C. Avoid slopes, plant a ground cover instead of lawn



**Benefit:**

- Conserve water
- Conserve energy
- Conserve labor

**4. Hydrozoning**

- A. By grouping plants together by water and light needs plants tend to be healthy
- B. When you group your plants together by water and light needs then you can properly water each micro-climate
- C. Use California natives



**Benefit:**

- Healthy plants
- Conserve water
- Less pruning

**5. Irrigation System**

- A. Remember to change your irrigation timer seasonally. Monthly adjustments are encouraged
- B. Use an automatic controller on your irrigation system
- C. Use drip for your flower and shrub beds
- D. Replace old sprinkler heads with high efficient ones. If your system is over 10 years old check out the new sprinkler heads at your local garden center

- E. Use multiple run times if you have a lot of run-off before the timer shuts off. (sponge example) For example; you should irrigate every other day for 20 minutes but after 15 minutes the water is running off the lawn. Instead run the system for 10 minutes, wait 1 hour and run for another 10 minutes. This works especially well on slopes.

**Benefit:**

- Limit evaporation and run-off
- Limit disease
- Limit weeds

**6. Irrigate according to the season**

- A. Know your watering needs (use the can method for turf)
- B. Adjust watering to the season, use chart in Lawn Watering brochure
- C. Water early
- D. Water slowly
- E. Water deeply

**Benefit:**

- Appropriate watering slows plant growth
- Promotes plant health
- Reduces pruning and mowing
- It is estimated that overwatering causes 85% of all landscape problems

**7. Make every Drop Count**

- A. Water wisely and slowly.



- B. Mulch is one of the quickest, easiest and most cost-effective ways to save water
- C. Repair leaks and broken sprinklers
- D. Reduce overspray areas
- E. Adjust the system frequently to the season
- F. Mulching exposed soil reduces evaporation.
- G. Prevent urban drool

**Benefit:**

- Conserve water
- Save money
- Urban landscape water use can be reduced by 50%

