

How to Make Every Drop Count

As our region experiences another dry year, perhaps it is time to re-envision the landscape and think differently about the outdoor spaces around our homes. Done right, converting your lawn to a low-water landscape is an enhancement, not a compromise.

EBMUD has compiled these resources to help get you started. You may find them helpful as you contemplate a new design or installation of your garden. It is important for all of us to maintain and manage our outdoor spaces more efficiently and sustainably.

The more we work together to stretch the water supply the more resilient our communities will be during this and future droughts.

By listing below, EBMUD is not endorsing any of the websites or organizations. They are provided for information purposes only and use is solely at the discretion of the reader.



The Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/docs/MWEL009-10-09.pdf

This model ordinance is the state benchmark by which all local city and county ordinances must at least as effective as. It applies to most commercial landscapes. For residential landscapes, it only applies to projects over 5,000 square feet in size but the concepts are good practice and should be utilized for projects of any size.

Rebate Incentive Programs

EBMUD's Landscape Conversion and Irrigation Upgrades Program

<http://www.ebmud.com/water-and-wastewater/water-conservation/lawn-conversion-irrigation-upgrade-rebates>

Also see attached handout.

Contra Costa Water District's Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program

<http://www.ccwater.com/conserve/Lawn.asp>

Contra Costa Water District's Garden Design Assistance Program

<http://www.ccwater.com/conserve/GardenAssistance.asp>

Sustainable Landscaping

Sustainable sites, California

www.sustainablesites.org

Sustainable landscapes create ecologically resilient outdoor spaces better able to withstand and recover from episodic floods, droughts, wildfires, and other catastrophic events. This site provides tools that help address increasingly urgent global concerns such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and resource depletion and can be used by those who design, construct, operate, and maintain landscapes, including but not limited to planners, landscape architects, engineers, developers, builders, maintenance crews, horticulturists, governments and land stewards.

Landscape galleries

www.landscaperesource.com

This site provides many landscape galleries and resources that provide how to knowledge and inspiration for your upcoming project.

The Lawn Goodbye: Landscape Gallery

<https://www.ebmud.com/water-and-wastewater/water-conservation/lawn-goodbye-landscape-gallery>

California Urban Water Conservation Council

The California Urban Water Conservation Council was created to increase efficient water use statewide through partnerships among urban water agencies, public interest organizations, and private entities. The Council's goal is to integrate urban water conservation Best Management Practices into the planning and management of California's water resources.

<http://www.cuwcc.org/>

Wholly H2O

Wholly H2O is a catalyst for sustainable, localized water management in California. Our education and outreach advances locally-appropriate solutions for water conservation. Certainly, this includes pragmatic reuse of rain, storm, gray, and black water. We mainstream aesthetically striking adoption of water-wise practices.

<https://www.whollyh2o.org/>

EcoLandscaping, California

EcoLandscaping California's mission is to educate and advocate for ecologically responsible landscapes
www.ecolandscape.org

University of California, Davis, California Center for Urban Horticulture

The California Center for Urban Horticulture (CCUH) was established in late 2006 to address the need for horticulture education for California residents, on issues ranging from increasing demand for water and rising levels of environmental pollutants into public waterways from urban run-off.

<http://ccuh.ucdavis.edu>

The New American Front Yard—Kiss Your Grass Goodbye!

A beautiful book on re-envisioning the front Yard

www.kissyourgrassgoodbye.com

Water-Efficient Plants--Websites & Resources

EBMUD's award-winning plant book,

Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates (\$10 discount for customers within EBMUD service area)

<http://www.ebmud.com/store/books/plants-and-landscapes>

Searchable Plant List - Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates.

All the photos here are from the original book, *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates* and most were taken in California. All photos by Saxon Holt.

<http://summer-dry.com/plant-list>

Official DWR Site for Water Use Classification of Landscape Species

Searchable WUCOLS database

[http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/Plant Search/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/Plant%20Search/)

Water Use Classification of Landscape Species

Searchable WUCOLS database with photos of the plants and the ability to save plant lists. Similar to official DWR site but more robust. Offered free as a public service.

www.WaterWonk.us

Mediterranean Garden Society

California gardening habits are dominated by plants and garden designs suited to the climate of the eastern coast of north America where it rains throughout the year. Seduced by these images, it is the goal of the Mediterranean Garden Society to develop alternatives, no less attractive or alluring, which are truly based on a Mediterranean way of gardening. Mediterranean plants will of necessity be more or less drought resistant. Waterwise gardening has to be one of the basic tenets in California where summer drought can last for four months and more - areas where the cost of water can only increase and availability decrease.

<http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org>

California Native Plant Society

California's wild gardens are immensely diverse and awe-inspiring in their beauty. They define the landscape and offer Californians a sense of place, pride and stability, and they provide habitat for endemic wildlife species.
[.www.cnps.org/cnps/about/](http://www.cnps.org/cnps/about/)

UC Davis Arboretum All Stars – 100 tough and reliable plants

http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx

UC Davis Irrigation Field Trials for Landscape Plants

UC Davis horticulturists are evaluating landscape plants with the potential to be good performers in low-water use gardens.

<http://ccuh.ucdavis.edu/academia/plant-trials>

California Invasive Plant Council

<http://www.cal-ipc.org/>

Water Supply and the Drought Resources

Department of Water Resources Drought Update

<http://water.ca.gov/waterconditions/>

EBMUD Drought Update

<http://www.ebmud.com/water-and-wastewater/latest-water-supply-update>

Drought Proofing Your Lawn

Many landscapes in California receive much more water than they need. When irrigation is applied too frequently, plants may appear happy, however the roots will remain shallow. Increasing root depth increases the drought tolerance of your lawn.

<http://www.beyondthedrought.com/resources/Delta%20Bluegrass%20Drought+Tips.pdf>

Managing Turf Grasses During Drought

Most of California has a Mediterranean climate characterized by long, hot, dry summer, and turf grasses must be watered to survive under these conditions. Californian's must learn how to use water more efficiently as demand and cost rise and drought conditions continue.

<http://www.beyondthedrought.com/resources/Managing%20Turf%20for%20Drought.pdf>

h2ouse

<http://www.h2ouse.net/>

Save our Water

<http://www.cuwcc.org/Committees/Education/SaveOurWater.aspx?folderId=74&view=gridview&pageSize=10>

Soil Health

Healthy soils

The soil food web. Healthy soil improves infiltration of rain and supplemental irrigation deep into the rootzone to promote the development of a sound root system. The soil food web also helps release nutrients to the plants and reduces the need for supplemental fertilizer.

http://www.soilfoodweb.com/Home_Page.html

The magic of mulch

<http://www.ebmud.com/water-and-wastewater/water-conservation/mulch-discount-coupons>

ECOMulch

<http://myecomulch.com/pricing/>

ECOMulch Mulch Calculator

Where to find mulch

<http://www.colorenrichedmulch.com/mulch-calculator.php>

Sheet Mulching Guide from Stop Waste

<http://www.stopwaste.org/preventing-waste/sheet-mulching-landscape-professionals>

Artificial turf flyer (Santa Clara Water District)

http://valleywater.org/uploadedFiles/Programs/WaterConservation/Landscaping/01_Artificial%20Turf%20Fact%20Sheet_030614%20BA.pdf?n=1336

Water Scheduling, Guides, & Tools

Gnome by ET Water

<https://www.etwatergnome.com>

Irrigation Scheduler

www.BeyondTheDrought.com

This is a sprinkler scheduler based on current weather conditions. Sponsored by The Water Forum, it is for phone, tablet, or computer. It goes out and gets the past 7 days of ETo and creates a weekly run time schedule. Only sprinklers are addressed. Drip is not included. This current version is for the Sacramento Region only (Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, and Yolo Counties), but other counties will be offered soon. A Spanish version will also be offered in the future.

California Irrigation Management System (CIMIS) Current daily ET values

www.cimis.water.ca.gov

Soil Probes

<http://www.benmeadows.com/soil-sampling/soil-probes-36814687/>

Controllers

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) list of WaterSense labeled controllers

<http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/products/controltech.html>

Irrigation Organizations & Websites

Irrigation Association (IA)

IA is dedicated to promoting efficient irrigation. IA works to improve industry proficiency, advocate sound water management, and grow demand for water-efficient products and services.

www.irrigation.org

Smart Water Application Technologies (SWAT)

Provides testing results for water efficient irrigation equipment

www.irrigation.org/SWAT

Irrigation Consumer Handbook

Turn to the Irrigation Association (IA) for the latest tools and resources. IA offers irrigation techniques, business management practices and industry research you can put to work for your company and your customers.

[http://www.irrigation.org/uploadedFiles/SWAT/SWAT 2/Irrigation Consumer Handbook.pdf](http://www.irrigation.org/uploadedFiles/SWAT/SWAT_2/Irrigation_Consumer_Handbook.pdf)

EPA WaterSense Program

WaterSense, a partnership program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water with water-efficient products, new homes, and services.

www.epa.gov/watersense

Irrigation Calculators

Hunter Water Savings Calculator

<http://www.hunterindustries.com/main/water-savings-calculator>

Rain Bird's Online Irrigation Calculators

<http://www.rainbird.com/landscape/resources/calculators.htm>

Irrigation Manufacturers' Design Guides

Netafim Design Guide

<http://www.netafimusa.com/files/literature/landscape/dripperline/LTLCVDG-Techline-CV-Design-Guide.pdf>

Netafim EZ Quick Install Guide

<http://www.netafimusa.com/files/literature/landscape/dripperline/LTEZQI-Quick-Install-Surface.pdf>

Hunter Design Guide

http://www.hunterindustries.com/sites/default/files/dg_plddesignguide_dom.pdf

Rain Bird Landscape Drip Design Guides

<http://www.rainbird.com/documents/drip/LDLDesignGuide.pdf>

Rain Bird Sprinkler-to-drip Conversion Guide (pdf)

<http://www.rainbird.com/documents/drip/LandscapeDripConversionGuide.pdf>

Irrigation Training

Jess Stryker's Irrigation Tutorials Online (free)

Excellent resource!

www.irrigationtutorials.com

California Landscape Contractor's Association

http://clca.org/consumers/consumers_home.php

Irrigation Training & Research Center (ITRC)

<http://www.itrc.org/classes/lwmclass.htm>

Irrigation Association Training

http://www.irrigation.org/Online_Classes.aspx

http://www.irrigation.org/Education/Class_Descriptions.aspx