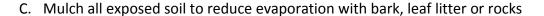
CONSERVE WATER

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.



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%

