

# Landscaping to Save Water

The California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA) recommends the following to help your landscape survive this year's dry weather and help you prepare for predicted future water shortages:



- Water trees first. If trees are lost, the surrounding temperature is increased, making everything hotter. One way to conserve water is to put your garden hose on a timed low drip and get the water down deep. You can also install a temporary drip system tied into a hose bib or use a soaker hose on the surface to slowly water the base of the tree.
- Set your spray irrigation timer to run half the normal time and run a second cycle an hour later. This will dramatically reduce runoff. Clay and other soils will only absorb so much water and anything beyond that point is wasted water.
- Mulch heavily all flower and soil beds. Mulch helps keep water in the soil. Do not use rocks/gravel because they add heat to the soil and moisture evaporates faster.
- Mow grass (Fescue, Rye, Kentucky Blue Grass) higher - 3"-3.5" to promote deeper root growth and hold more moisture.
- Don't prune after April. Pruning stimulates growth, which needs more water. Existing growth will also provide additional shade to the soil, helping to retain moisture.
- Fix or replace any broken sprinklers, and repair leaks. Turn on each sprinkler zone and see how much time it takes to start generating runoff for each zone. Round sprinkler time down to the nearest minute and set that time as your maximum run time for each station. Program your controller for multiple run cycles.

For additional information about saving water, please see the following websites:



- [City of Woodland Water Conservation](#)
- [California Landscaper Contractors Association](#)
- [RWA Rules of Thumb for Water-Wise Gardening](#)
- [UC Guide to Healthy Lawns](#)
- [Save Our Water](#)



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