

HELP YOUR TREES SURVIVE THE DROUGHT



BE WATER-WISE. IT'S EASY. HERE'S HOW.

Trees and water are both precious resources. Trees make our houses feel like home—they also improve property values, clean our water & air, and even make our streets safer & quieter. When we water wisely and maintain our trees carefully, we enjoy a wide range of benefits at a low cost and with little effort.

YOUNG TREES

The roots of younger trees are less established & need easier access to water to establish deep root systems.

MATURE TREES

Mature trees require MORE water when growing near heat traps such as driveways & foundations.

EXPOSED TREES

Water loss is greater where trees are exposed to hot afternoon sun & strong or constant wind.

DECIDUOUS TREES

The critical time for water is during later winter/early spring when new buds and leaves are forming.



THE RIGHT AMOUNT

Water young trees twice per week (about 5 gallons) & mature trees once per week in several places (the equivalent of 1 to 1.5 inches of rain).

IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Water the “drip zone,” area directly beneath the foliage & shaded by the tree. Also, add mulch to lower soil temperatures & reduce water evaporation.

CONSERVE & RECYCLE WATER

Inside: Place buckets in the shower to collect warm up water. Recycle water from the dehumidifier, collect air conditioning condensation, & “save a flush” to conserve. Outside: Convert irrigation systems to drip, low-flow or micro spray & fix leaks.

THE RIGHT TIME

Water early in the morning or after the sun has set, as this is when trees replace the water they’ve lost during the day. Also less water is lost to evaporation at these times. Mulching your tree will also keep soils warmer in winter & cooler in summer.

DON'T WASTE WATER

Water should soak into the ground rather than running off into the drain.

THE RIGHT WAY

During drought, water directly with a hose or 5-gallon bucket.

THE RIGHT DEPTH

Deep watering helps deep root growth & healthier trees.

THE RIGHT CHOICE

Plant native or drought resistant tree species that require less water. Choose trees over lawn, as trees are a long-term investment.



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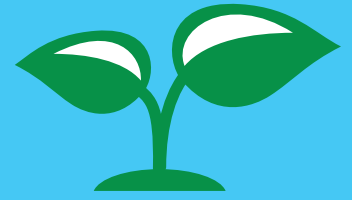
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For more tips to keep your trees healthy.

HOW TO GARDEN IN A *drought*

California is in a drought and that means that we need to be careful with every drop of water that we use, particularly outdoors. Here's a guide to how to help your landscape survive the drought.



GET EFFICIENT



introduce drip irrigation



invest in a smart controller



water less frequently, but longer and close to plant roots



redirect downspouts to capture rainwater and direct it to garden areas

PRIORITIZE YOUR LANDSCAPE



1
VEGETABLES & FRUITS GET PRIORITY
They help feed your family.



2
WATER-WISE PLANTS & SHADE TREES
Water-wise plants use little or no water once established. Shade trees help keep plants cool and less thirsty.



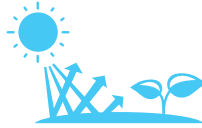
3
THIRSTY PLANTS – LAWN, HIGH-WATER-USE & CONTAINER PLANTS
These plants are the lowest on the priority list. If you have to cut back, start here.

USE MULCH

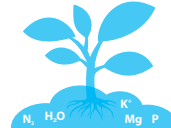
There are many benefits using mulch in your landscape.



RETAIN MOISTURE
Less watering needed and grow healthier plants.



MODERATES TEMPERATURE
Cool soil in the summer and warm soil in the winter.



DECOMPOSES NUTRIENTS
Enrich soil and better soil quality.



DISCOURAGE WEEDS
Keep weeds away and reduce maintenance.

CAN I PLANT?

Check with your local water agency and if you can water at least two times a week, you can plant water-wise plants and shade trees. This is not the time to install new lawn or thirsty, non-California friendly plants.



RECYCLE INDOOR WATER OUTDOORS!

Recycle water you are using indoors by capturing what otherwise might go down the drain and use it on plants.



put a bucket in your shower



use cooled cooking water



wash your fruits & veggies over a bucket



keep a pitcher next to the sink and empty water glasses in it

For more tips on reducing water use, visit saveourH2O.org

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