

PRACTICE WATER SAVING IRRIGATION TECHNIQUES

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Save water by irrigating in the morning and evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation. If your water runs off easily, split your irrigation time into shorter periods for better absorption.

Water your plants deeply and less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance. Irrigate only when needed. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.

Adjust your irrigation schedule to match the seasonal weather conditions or instead of following a set watering schedule, check for soil moisture two inches below the surface before watering.

Install a rain sensor if you have an irrigation system able to avoid watering when it is raining. Also, avoid watering on windy days when most of the water blows away or evaporates.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Save water and money by irrigating with rain graywater and rainwater. A plumber can re-route wastewater generated from domestic activities to your irrigation system to avoid running into the sewer line. Cities often offer rain barrels at a significantly reduced price to help reduce water usage.

Recycling water can be as simple as keeping a bucket in the shower as it runs or warms up. Saved water can

PUT SPRINKLERS TO GOOD USE

Save water by adjusting your sprinklers so that you are covering only what needs watering. Check your sprinkler system periodically for leaks and keep your sprinkler heads in good shape. Use sprinklers that deliver big droplets close to the ground. Mist and smaller water droplets often evaporate before they hit the ground.

Sprinklers may be applying water faster than the soil can absorb it and is not always the best option for your irrigation needs.



DRIP, DRIP, DRIP

Save water by providing roots with more direct watering with drip irrigation. Water drips slowly from small plastic tubing and provides water to roots without wetting foliage. Excess moisture is often the cause of fungal disease in plants.

Seek a product that is designed to keep roots from penetrating. There are inexpensive drip irrigation systems available.



URBAN RELEAF is an urban forestry 501(c)3 organization based in Oakland, California committed to the revitalization of our core urban areas through tree planting and stewardship, environmental education, green job creation, and community empowerment. For information, visit www.urbanreleaf.org.

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