

WATER CONSERVATION INFORMATION



While not all of these options are feasible for our landscape here at Stanford, bear in mind you can apply some of these methods in your home garden as well.

Do not introduce new plants to your landscape during a severe drought. Even California native plants aren't drought-resistant until they become well established. When water restrictions allow for new plants to be introduced into your landscape, select drought tolerant varieties appropriate for your climate zone. Introduce new plants during the fall, allowing them to become established by winter rain.

Water-saving Plant Tips:

- Remove plants in crowded beds or low-priority plants competing for soil moisture.
- Mulch, mulch, mulch!
 - A 3 to 4" layer reduces water evaporation and weeds.
 - Protects roots from heat.
 - Reduces weeds who compete for water.
- Avoid heavy pruning.
- Do not overuse fertilizers, which increase growth and water demand.
- Infrequent deep watering encourages deeper root growth, and results in plants with greater drought tolerance.

Use a drip irrigation system, grouping plants with similar water needs together on one drip irrigation line.

TURF MAINTENANCE:

Deep & infrequent watering is the goal with lawns in the summer. Set-up cycles to water off on and through the night without any water running down the street and then see how many days you can go without watering. A couple of things to look for in the lawns in July are: 1. Ensure sprinklers are working properly. 2. Try hand watering a dry area instead of turning on all the sprinklers. 3. If you want to fertilize use a slow-release fertilizer.

IRRIGATION PM WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

July is the beginning of summer, summer means warmth and heat, extra precautions should be taken for not only us but the plants that we care for. Proper watering and understanding watering needs for each and every one of our plants is crucial. Water conservation should be at its highest awareness point protecting soils from drying out with ground cover or amendments watering early in the morning as possible, deep watering for trees and plants once a week, turf twice a week most and look for alternative plantings for future savings. Good design is a priority.

Irrigation inspection is crucial, broken lines or components of the system that may cause water loss adds up quickly.

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