

In This Issue:

California Friendly
Landscape Training Class

Ask Juan

Water Softeners Can
Impact Water Quality

Don't Overwater
This Winter

pipelines

DECEMBER 2016 | NUMBER 12



Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

Save the Date

California Friendly Landscape Training Class

Wednesday, January 18
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Saturday, February 4
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Wednesday, February 22
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
(in Spanish)

IRWD Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine

Become a Waterwise Gardener. Learn six ways to make your garden California Friendly:

- Using a Holistic Approach to Gardening
- Building a Living Soil Sponge
- Rethinking Elements of Your Site
- Right Plant, Right Place
- Using Rainwater as a Resource
- Managing Irrigation

Sign-ups required:
rightscapenow.com/events

The Gifts That Keep on Saving

Give yourself a holiday gift of water savings and money in your pocket. Take advantage of our high-efficiency clothes washer, high-efficiency toilet, weather-based irrigation controller, rotating spray nozzle and rain barrel rebate programs.

In addition, the turf-removal program pays you money after replacing thirsty grass with beautiful drought-tolerant landscaping. Receive \$2 per square foot of turf removed.

A high-efficiency clothes washer uses 55 percent less water than a standard washer, saving about 75,000 gallons of water over its lifetime. IRWD customers receive up to \$250 for replacing their washers.

Other rebates include: \$150 for high-efficiency toilets (maximum of nine toilets), up to \$155 for weather-based irrigation controllers, \$75 for rain barrels, and \$2 per rotating spray nozzles (minimum of 30 nozzles).

For rebate program details and a list of qualified rebate products, visit our website at rightscapenow.com/rebates/residential-rebates.



Ask Juan



Q: Juan, I'm looking to add more color to my drought friendly landscape. Can you recommend a few hearty flowering plants or shrubs that don't need lots of water?

A: Four colorful plants that are well-adapted to our semi-arid climate are Grevillea Hybrid, Purple Rockrose, Texas Ranger and Yellow Bush Lantana. You can view these plants, and about 80 more, in our RightScape Demonstration Garden in front of the IRWD office building at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.



Grevillea Hybrid
Grevillea 'Ivanhoe'



Purple Rockrose
Cistus X purpureus



Texas Ranger or Texas Sage
Leucophyllum frutescens



Yellow Bush Lantana
Lantana 'Yellow Bush'

Water Softeners Can Impact Water Quality

The water you receive from IRWD meets and exceeds all state and federal water quality regulations, so we don't recommend the use of water softeners or elaborate filtering systems. Your water is fine as it is.

The water IRWD provides from imported sources can be harder than local groundwater, containing a higher mineral content. Soft water has a lower mineral content, which some customers might prefer.

If you opt to use a water softener, IRWD discourages using those which require the periodic addition of rock salt or potassium, which discharges salty brine into the sewer system.



Our state-of-the-art water quality laboratory continuously monitors the water supply, conducting more than a quarter of a million tests each year.

IRWD's recycled water process does not remove this salt. Most of IRWD's recycled water is used for landscape irrigation and irrigated plants cannot tolerate water with an elevated salt content.

There is an environmentally friendly option, if you still desire water softening. Subscribe to a service that picks up and exchanges the water-softener cylinder, so added salt does not go down the drain. Hooking up the water softener only to the hot water lines will also save you money.

To learn more about the use of water softeners and other water quality considerations, visit irwd.com/services/water-quality-report.



Water quality staff members monitor more than 99 sample points throughout the District, ensuring that IRWD water meets and exceeds all state and federal mandates.

Don't Overwater This Winter

Plants need less water in the late fall and all winter. A few days before and throughout periods of rain, shut off your irrigation system completely. When you turn your sprinklers back on, run the irrigation timer on "Manual" and then walk through your landscape, checking for leaks, overspray and runoff.

The following schedule lists MAXIMUM times for spray head irrigation. Your run times may be less frequent. Always check for irrigation system leaks and water waste before increasing the frequency or duration of sprinklers' run times. Drip irrigation run times can be found at rightscapenow.com/how-do-i/get-a-watering-schedule.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Month	Grass	Trees, Shrubs & Groundcover
December	3 days, 2 cycles of 2 minutes	1 day, 2 cycles of 3 minutes
January	2 days, 2 cycles of 2 minutes	1 day, 2 cycles of 3 minutes
February	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes	1 day, 2 cycles of 3 minutes

 **Like Us**
Irvine Ranch
Water District

 **Follow Us**
@IRWDNews

 **Watch Us**
youtube.com/
IrvineRanchWD

 **Follow Us**
@irwdnews

24-Hour Customer Service: 949-453-5300
Email: customerservice@irwd.com
Address: 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618
Website: irwd.com

Board of Directors:
Mary Aileen Matheis – President, Douglas J. Reinhart – Vice President,
Steven E. LaMar, Peer A. Swan, John B. Withers
General Manager: Paul Cook, PE