

Late fee policy reinstated

IRWD resumed its late fee policy on Sept. 1. Visit [IRWD.com/payment-arrangement](https://www.irwd.com/payment-arrangement) for help avoiding penalties on unpaid balances.

pipelines

SEPTEMBER 2022



Irvine Ranch
Water District

Save the date

IRWD Community Tour

In-person tour
Saturday, Oct. 8
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join us for a tour of our Michelson Water Recycling Plant and San Joaquin Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, and learn more about the benefits of recycled water and how IRWD's marsh helps keep the Back Bay clean.

Sign-up required:
[RightScape.com/events](https://www.irwd.com/rightscape.com/events)

Ocean-minded Landscaping

Online event
Wednesday, Oct. 12
Noon – 1 p.m.

Create a beautiful landscape that benefits our local watershed. In this workshop, you'll learn how to establish healthy living soil, capture rainwater as a resource, select climate appropriate plants and more.

Sign-up required:
[RightScape.com/events](https://www.irwd.com/rightscape.com/events)

Now's the time to water less

Landscapes don't need as much irrigation in the fall

Plants start to slow down in September, entering a period of dormancy until spring. Even though it's still hot out, the days are getting shorter, and less water is lost through evaporation—so the soil does a better job of retaining the water you give it. As a result, your plants do not need as much water this time of year.

All this means you should be dialing down your irrigation schedule by 30% to adjust to the season. You'll still have a beautiful yard, and save a lot of water, too.

For more information, including a watering guide, water-saving rebates and more, please visit [WateringGuide.com](https://www.irwd.com/wateringguide.com).

Think big with small spaces

Interested in transforming your yard into a beautiful showcase garden with major curb appeal?

IRWD's latest episode of the Shed Show will walk you through it—teaching you how to create your own design and replace your turf with something spectacular.

In Episode 2, IRWD Senior Water Efficiency Specialist Juan Garcia and landscape designer Jodie Cook run through the steps of a landscape renovation with a focus on small spaces—from planning, to design, to completion.

They cover everything from hardscapes to water capture, and recommend several native plants that will make your finished product pop!

Go to [IRWD.com/ShedShow](https://www.irwd.com/shedshow) for the first two episodes, and for basic landscape resources and rebates to help get you started.

Happy planting!



California native corner

Juan's September plant: blue elderberry

Blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea*) is a deciduous shrub to small tree that can grow 15 to 30 feet tall. In the spring, large clusters of fragrant creamy white flowers appear, making way for edible purple berries in the fall. It's an excellent landscape and habitat plant as it attracts butterflies, native bees, and birds. Its berries are also excellent for making jelly, pies and elderberry wine. Learn more at CalScape.org and CalScape.org/planting-guide.php. — Juan



Ask Juan



Q: We're trying to save water on our landscape, but I'm worried about our trees. Do you have any tips?

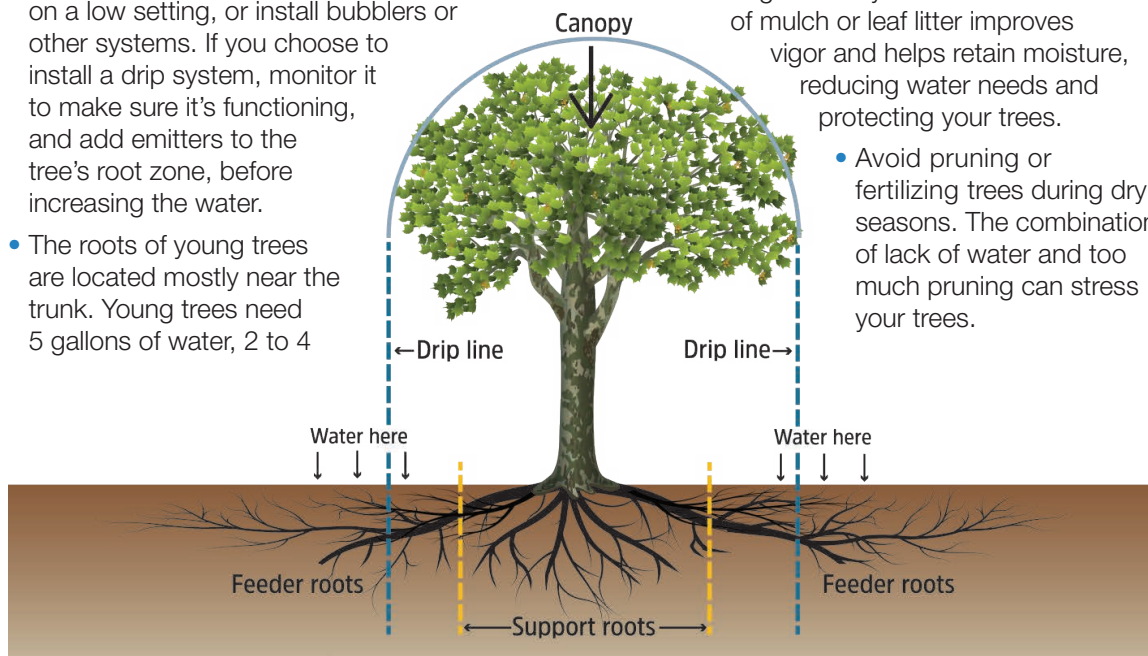
A: Trees are so important, not only for their beauty but for the many benefits they have on our environment. They cool and clean the air, shade landscapes, and provide habitat to birds and other species. During drought, it is especially important to make sure trees get water.

Follow these tips recommended by CaliforniaReLeaf.org for proper tree care during droughts:

- For established trees, ages 3 years and older, slowly soak the root zone beneath the drip line—the area under the farthest reaches of the branches—until water soaks 12 to 18 inches below the surface and extends outward to reach the feeder roots. Water every 10 to 14 days.
- Use a soaker hose, a sprinkler attachment on a low setting, or install bubblers or other systems. If you choose to install a drip system, monitor it to make sure it's functioning, and add emitters to the tree's root zone, before increasing the water.
- The roots of young trees are located mostly near the trunk. Young trees need 5 gallons of water, 2 to 4

times per week. Create a small watering basin with a berm of dirt. Another method is to drill a small hole near the bottom of a 5-gallon bucket, place it near the tree, fill it with water, and allow it to slowly drain into the soil.

- Let the soil dry between waterings. Trees need oxygen, too!
- Mulch generously. A bed of 4 to 6 inches of mulch or leaf litter improves vigor and helps retain moisture, reducing water needs and protecting your trees.
- Avoid pruning or fertilizing trees during dry seasons. The combination of lack of water and too much pruning can stress your trees.



Got landscape questions? Email AskJuan@IRWD.com or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at RightScape.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan.

Ask Customer Service

Q: We have a big family and are having trouble staying within our water budget. What can we do?

A: If the number of people living in your home is more than the base number used to calculate your bill, you may be eligible for a variance.

IRWD calculates customer water budgets based on property type and estimates for the number of residents per household and the amount of outdoor landscaping for the property.

If you believe the information associated with your account needs revising, visit IRWD.com/request-a-variance to apply for a review of your account. Please be prepared to upload the appropriate documentation for each member of your household, including birth certificates, school records, driver's licenses, lease agreements, etc.

Visit IRWD.com/rates-charges for more information, or contact an IRWD Customer Service representative at **949-453-5300** or CustomerService@IRWD.com to discuss your account.

Got a question? Email info@IRWD.com with "Ask Customer Service" as the subject line.