

So long, lawn. Hello rebate!

Our turf rebate pays \$5 for every square foot removed. Visit [IRWD.com/turf rebate](https://www.irwd.com/turf rebate) for details.

pipelines

FEBRUARY 2024



Irvine Ranch
Water District

Save the date

IRWD Poster Contest

Entries due Feb. 26

Calling all junior artists in grades K-12! Enter IRWD's annual water awareness poster contest.

Details and sign up:
[IRWD.com/postercontest](https://www.irwd.com/postercontest)

Community Tour

Saturday, March 9
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join us for a walking tour of our Michelson Water Recycling Plant and San Joaquin Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary.

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

Fix-a-Leak Workshop

Saturday, March 23
9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Learn how to do your own repairs at this workshop and take part in our Fix-a-Leak Sweepstakes at [IRWD.com/fixaleak](https://www.irwd.com/fixaleak).

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

Talking about the birds and the bees

Give some love to biodiversity with your own native pollinator garden

Native plants and pollinators depend on each other for survival—each one struggling to live without the other. Sadly, both populations are in decline.

Native plants rely on indigenous birds, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other species to reproduce; while native pollinators depend on naturally occurring plants for food, shelter, and to support their natural lifecycle.

You can help restore their numbers by adding California native plants to your landscape. Even a native plant potted on your porch can help.



Go to [calscape.org](https://www.calscape.org) to search for plants native to our Orange County climate. Many native seeds, available online, will still germinate even when planted in late winter. For potted varieties, a list of local native plant nurseries can be found at [IRWD.com/landscape](https://www.irwd.com/landscape). Be sure to check out Episode 1 of IRWD's Shed Show series for some entertaining tips at [IRWD.com/shedshow](https://www.irwd.com/shedshow).

Native pollinator gardens make a beautiful addition to any landscape, and once established, they require very little irrigation. Plant yours to help nature and save water.

Cleaning rain and runoff naturally

Rain is great for quenching our landscapes. But as it washes over our rooftops, lawns, driveways and streets, it picks up pollutants that are harmful to plants and animals downstream. Urban runoff, caused by over-watering, has the same harmful effect.

In both instances, metals, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, and pathogens from pet waste make their way into local waterways that lead to the ocean.

IRWD helps clean urban runoff at 45 Natural Treatment System sites—using plants and soils to remove phosphorous, nitrogen and other pollutants found in fertilizers; beneficial organisms to feed upon pathogens; and ultra-violet light from the sun to reduce harmful bacteria.



In just one year, our NTS sites treat more than a billion gallons of water, removing 40,000 pounds of nitrogen, 50 tons of sediment, 19,000 pounds of trash, 45 pounds of copper, and as much as 99% of the total coliform found in runoff. Visit [IRWD.com/nts](https://www.irwd.com/nts) for details

Tip: You can prevent urban runoff at home by not overwatering, and adjusting your sprinkler heads so they don't spray on pavement.

Customers help identify leaks

Since IRWD launched its Log-a-Leak tool in June 2023, customers have identified nearly 200 leaks or instances of over-watering in their neighborhood—helping to spot issues before others even know they are there.

Many irrigation leaks go undetected, and landscape professionals have praised the tool for bringing these issues to light.

“The notifications have helped us react to issues sooner,” said Michael Murray, landscape maintenance supervisor with the City of Irvine.



How does it work?

The next time you spot a leak or overwatering in your neighborhood, go to [IRWD.com/logaleak](https://www.irwd.com/logaleak) and use the tool's GPS locator to tell us exactly where the water issue is. From there, we'll contact the business or resident and let them know about the issue so they can get it fixed.

Ask Juan



Q: Hi Juan. Can you recommend any hypoallergenic plants that won't trigger my allergies? Is there such a thing?

A: Great question! There are many trees, shrubs and succulents considered anti-allergy because they produce little to no pollen. If you love California natives, consider the western redbud or toyon as a small tree. The ever-fragrant woolly bluecurls and hardy coffeeberry shrub are also good

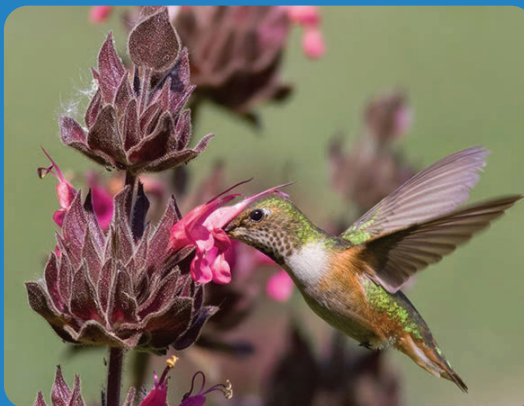
choices, along with flowering perennials such as the lovely foothill penstemon, hummingbird sage, and hooker's evening primrose to bring color to your garden without the sniffles. Many other water-friendly considerations are boxwoods, roses, rosemary and cacti. With a little research, you can plant without worry.

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

California native corner

Juan's February plant: hummingbird sage

Hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*) is a showy, low-spreading perennial herb bearing stalks of slightly fragrant, magenta and burgundy blooms that stand out against the plant's bright green foliage. Once established, it can do with little to no supplemental water. Plant in dry shaded or partly shaded areas, even under oaks or other dense trees. — Juan



Q: How can I set up online bill pay for my account?

A: IRWD offers several options to fit a variety of online and mobile preferences. These services are secure, convenient and free.

Go to [paymybill.irwd.com](https://www.paymybill.irwd.com) and choose to make a one-time payment by credit card. Or you can register for the portal to pay by phone, or to set up easy automatic payments using credit card, PayPal or Venmo.

The services also link directly to your WaterInsight water usage report, so you can track your water use to determine ways you can save water and money.

Traditional payments via check can still be mailed or put in our drop box at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

