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Go to [IRWD.com/alert](https://www.irwd.com/alert) to set up your contact information for emergency water notifications.

pipelines

MAY 2024



Irvine Ranch
Water District



Blue flax

Save the date

Grow Food Anywhere

Saturday, June 15
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Learn how to grow fruits and vegetables in small spaces and containers at this workshop co-hosted by OC Master Gardeners.

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

Community Tour at dusk

Friday, July 10
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Kids welcome! Learn how we recycle water and treat urban runoff. Enjoy a sunset tour of San Joaquin Marsh and look for bats.

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

Dream Design Your Yard

Saturday, July 13
9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Get ideas from several landscape design experts on how to transform your yard into a beautiful oasis.

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

Focused on dam safety, every day

Did you know that May 31 is National Dam Safety Awareness Day, an annual observance to promote best practices for dam safety? While this day marks a nationwide occurrence, dam safety is a focus for IRWD every day of the year.

For more than 60 years, IRWD has safely owned, operated, and maintained reservoirs and dams that store water for the benefit of the community. That includes the San Joaquin, Sand Canyon, Syphon and Rattlesnake recycled water reservoirs, along with Irvine Lake.



Sand Canyon Reservoir

IRWD is so vigilant about dam safety, our Dam Safety Program is one of the premier programs in the state. We use InSAR satellite monitoring, automatic data acquisition systems, regular inspections and other measures to ensure our dams are safe and functioning as designed.

In recognition of this, last year, the District was honored by the Association of State Dam Safety Officials for making exemplary contributions to the improvement of dam safety in the United States.

IRWD dams and reservoirs play a major role in the resilience of our local water supply. Keeping them safe is a top priority. For more information on IRWD's Dam Safety Program, visit [IRWD.com/dam-safety](https://www.irwd.com/dam-safety).

Sweepstakes winners announced

Every March, IRWD hosts an annual sweepstakes in observance of Fix a Leak Week, a U.S. EPA WaterSense program focused on spreading the word about how to find and fix leaks in and around the home.

From March 1 to 31, IRWD sweepstakes participants snapped and submitted pics of themselves looking for leaks—most often, using the dye test to check for toilet leaks.

And the winners, drawn at random, are:

- Hyo Baek
- Nazanin Farhad
- Louise Grimm
- Mio Hernandez
- Lawrence Javier
- Marygrace Lenz
- Dheeraj Mohata
- Garrick Olson

Big thanks to everyone who participated. Even if you didn't win one of the \$100 Home Depot gift card prizes, take pride in knowing you did good work checking for leaks!

Mosquitoes? Check your sprinklers

Are you bothered by mosquitoes at home? It could be a sign of an irrigation leak or overwatering.

Even the smallest puddle of standing water in your yard can be a breeding ground for these pests. Did you know the Aedes “ankle biter” mosquito can breed in just a teaspoon of water?

Irvine Ranch Water District has teamed up with Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District to remind residents that mosquito control is a shared responsibility that benefits everyone.

Find out what you can do to discourage mosquito breeding in your yard:

- Eliminate breeding sources on your property: ocvector.org
- Learn how frequently to water your yard: IRWD.com/wateringguide
- Apply for our Sprinkler Repair Program: IRWD.com/sprinklerrepair



Ask Juan



Q: Hi Juan. Are there any plants that help keep mosquitoes away?

A: This is a great question! Try yarrow, sage, beach strawberry and Toyon. Several non-native plants will also repel these pests, including geraniums, lavender and mint. Many of these plants have essential oils and scents that will keep the bugs at bay. They are also drought tolerant and require very little water during the summer heat—which helps avoid wet spots where mosquitoes can thrive.

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.

California native corner

Juan's May plant: beach strawberry

Beach strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*) is a spreading groundcover with dark green leaves that turn red in fall. Its beautiful white flowers bloom in spring and early summer and morph into a small, edible fruit that attracts a variety of birds. It does best in sandy soil with very little water, particularly in the coastal areas. A woodland variety is also available for inland areas. — Juan



Q: I'm confused about your Log-a-Leak app. Should I use it to report leaks at my home?

A: The Log-a-Leak app is for identifying leaks you spot in your community. If you have a leak at home, you should contact a plumber or sprinkler repair person if you can't fix it yourself.

IRWD kicked off the Log-a-Leak program last year to help identify irrigation leaks and overwatering that, because of nighttime watering schedules, might otherwise go unnoticed.

Put simply, if you spot a leak, log a leak—and we'll reach out to see that it's fixed.

Log-a-Leak pinpoints the location of the problem using GPS from your phone. It's quick and easy. Just go to IRWD.com/logaleak, and we'll handle the rest.

