



The newsletter of IRWD

pipelines

March 2013 | Number 3

Smarty Plants – Transform your Garden into an Always Water Smart Landscape

Spring is the perfect time to transform your yard into an Always Water Smart landscape. Landscape water use can account for up to 70 percent of residential water use, with nearly half of this water being wasted through overwatering, runoff and evaporation. By planting a water-efficient landscape, residents can reduce their water bill and have a healthier and attractive landscape.

Plants that will be featured at The Home Depot Garden-Friendly events include:



Bougainvillea – These plants showcase even more color when they are not over watered.



Euryops – Daisy-like flowers that are Garden Friendly? Yes, please!



Hesperaloe – Showy red flowers that bloom all spring through summer.

There's no need to constrain your landscape to a patch of grass when there are an abundance of water-efficient plants with lots of textures and colors. Native plants are well-suited to southern California's mild winters and warm, dry summers. They're less maintenance, use little water and don't need soil preparation or fertilizing.

If you're ready to make this transition but are uncertain about what types of plants to use and how to design an Always Water Smart landscape, we are here to help.

On March 9 and 23 (see sidebar), IRWD and The Home Depot have teamed up to offer special deals and great savings on certain varieties of low water-use plants and materials. Come and learn from local experts about how to design your garden with trees, perennials, shrubs, and groundcovers that are attractive and colorful and use significantly less water than high water-use plants.

For more information on getting started with an Always Water Smart landscape, IRWD has put together a comprehensive online landscape and plant resource guide. At www.irwdcalscape.org, visitors can create their own water-efficient landscape by selecting plants based on season, color, height range and other options. Visitors can also get information on design, landscape rebates, irrigation schedules and much more.

You're Invited*

Join IRWD and The Home Depot for two Garden-Friendly Plant Events

*Present this newsletter at the IRWD booth at either Home Depot event for a special prize.

March 9, 8 a.m. – Noon
The Home Depot – Lake Forest
20021 Lake Forest Drive

March 23, 8 a.m. – Noon
The Home Depot – Tustin
2782 El Camino Real

- Receive **special discounts** on select varieties of attractive water-efficient plants
- Learn from local experts how to plant a water-efficient landscape
- Enjoy vendor displays, educational demonstrations, give-aways and more
- IRWD staff and The Home Depot nursery consultant on hand to assist you



Fix a Leak on Us!



IRWD is encouraging customers to fix their water leaks. From now until March 31, IRWD is offering an opportunity to win up to \$100 toward the cost of your repair. All participants with a qualified leak repair and entry form will be entered to win. Winners will be announced April 30, 2013.

For full details on the contest and resources on how to check your home for leaks, visit AlwaysWaterSmart.com and click on "Fix a Leak."

Did You Know?

Q: How do I know IRWD has received my last payment?

A: Customers can check payment history through "Account Access" online. Click on the green "Account Access" button on the left side of the IRWD homepage at www.irwd.com. You will need to register a user ID and password, and know your IRWD water bill account number. Also, your account will reflect the last payment received as of the date the bill was printed.

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Here are some general design recommendations to help you transform your landscape:

- Less is more in planting design. Complex designs require more maintenance. Limit the number of plant species and create well-defined planted areas by not scattering plants throughout open areas.
- Consider how much lawn you would like or need. Plant lawn where it will be enjoyed, or forego it altogether (it is the highest water-consuming plant in the garden) and consider lawn alternatives, such as ground covers, decks, or patios.
- If you enjoy seasonal color, consider container gardens with lush and low-maintenance ornamentals, grasses, or succulents.
- Look for plants with the same water needs and group them together to maximize water use and allow for better plant health.
- A year-round evergreen garden can be achieved with low-maintenance ground covers such as Dymondia, Rosemary, or Star Jasmine.

Suggested Weekly Spring Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turfgrass	Trees, Shrubs & Ground Cover	% Option ²
March	3 days, 2 cycles ¹ of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	50%
April	3 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	70%
May	3 days, 3 cycles of 3 minutes each	2 days, 3 cycles of 3 minutes each	80%

The above chart suggests a weekly schedule for spray-head irrigation, assuming heavy clay soils common to most local coastal and foothill areas. Generally, these are the MAXIMUM times you will need for full sun areas. Your landscape's particular watering times may vary. Start with this schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the watering time.

¹ By "cycling" the irrigation controller to turn on for the recommended number of minutes an hour apart, deeper watering and healthier root growth are gained, while runoff is reduced.

² The % option, either a button or a dial, permits the watering run times for all electric valves managed by a controller to be increased or decreased with just one adjustment by percentage.

Customer Service Information

[IRWD Website Link & Social Media Channels](#) »

24-Hour Customer Access

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www.youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD



The mission of Irvine Ranch Water District, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer service in an efficient, cost effective manner and environmentally sensitive way that provides a high level of customer satisfaction.

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Comments about this publication?

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