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Your HOA and Your Landscape Answers to Your Frequently Asked Questions

Do you live in an HOA? Are you thinking about replacing your water-thirsty lawn with a drought-friendly landscape? If so, take advantage of the IRWD turf removal rebate and receive \$2 per square foot for removing your grass. Apply soon as funds are limited: irwd.com/rebates.

Please be sure to follow your HOA's procedures for landscape renovation and design approval before starting any garden design or turf removal project.

Q: Can my HOA fine me for not watering my landscape or letting my grass go brown?

A: No. HOAs are prohibited by state law from fining residents who allow their vegetation or lawns to turn brown during a declared drought emergency pursuant to section 4735 of the Civil Code.

Q: My HOA says they will fine me for using artificial turf and/or drought-friendly plants. Can they do that?

A: No. Under Section 4735 of the California Civil Code, provisions of an HOA's governing documents (CC&Rs, etc.) which prohibit the use of artificial turf or low water-using plants as a group are void and unenforceable.



An HOA may still apply landscaping rules, such as design and quality restrictions regarding the type of artificial turf or low water-using plants a homeowner can use as long as the restrictions do not effectively make it impossible for a homeowner to install artificial turf or low water-using plants.

Q: Can my HOA charge me a fee to review design plans for a drought-friendly garden?

A: Yes. Many HOAs require a fee to review new landscape designs and plans. To determine if your HOA has the authority to charge you a fee to review design plans, please reference your HOA's governing documents (CC&Rs, etc.).

Q: Is IRWD working with HOAs to help them understand the need to conserve water during a drought?

A: Yes, IRWD actively works with and educates HOAs on the importance of reducing water use, especially when state-mandated water use reductions are in place.

If you are on your HOA's board, please contact IRWD at rightscape@irwd.com to have staff provide a presentation at a future board meeting.

Q: Where can I get design ideas for a drought-friendly garden?

A: Visit rightscapenow.com for drought friendly landscape ideas and to sign up for free landscape design workshops.

Fix a Leak Contest Winners

Congratulations to these IRWD customers who checked their homes for leaks and won \$100 gift cards to The Home Depot.



Greg Marchi
Lake Forest



Shine Joseph
Foothill Ranch



Sean Horita
Lake Forest



Kay Brown
Irvine



Kristine Drouillard
Irvine



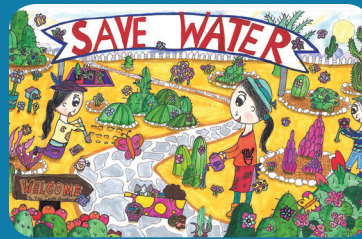
Q: Is it too late to begin planting my landscape?

A: Given our mild Mediterranean climate, planting can be done almost year-round in southern California. While drought tolerant plants like to be planted in late winter/early spring when the cooler weather helps them to establish more easily, planting is still encouraged throughout our spring season, except when temperatures rise and remain consistently summer-like. California's typical spring weather allows plants to "root in" and green growth to "push out." If planting in the beginning of summer, make sure not to let a plant's root system dry out and use plenty of mulch to keep soil at an adequate moisture level.

Landscape questions? Email rightscape@irwd.com

Poster Contest Winner

Melody Yu, a third grader at Turtle Rock Elementary School in Irvine, was one of five finalists whose posters were selected out of hundreds of submissions received by the Irvine, Tustin and Saddleback Unified School Districts. All five finalists will now compete in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's "Water is Life" regional poster contest. Winning posters will be published in the 2017 calendar.



Find These Rebates: irwd.com/rebates



High Efficiency Clothes Washer
\$250/washer



Weather Based Irrigation Controller
Up to **\$120**/controller for <1 acre of landscape or **\$50**/station for >1 acre of landscape



Rain Barrel
\$75/barrel; maximum of four (4)



Turf Removal Rebate Programs
\$2 per square foot removed
Details at RightScapeNow.com/turf-removal



High Efficiency Toilet
\$150/toilet; maximum of nine (9)



Rotating Spray Nozzle
\$2 per nozzle



Rain Cistern
\$300



Irrigation Station Soil Moisture Sensor
Up to **\$80**/controller for <1 acre or **\$35**/station for >1 acre

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