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# pipelines

SEPTEMBER 2018 | NUMBER 9



Irvine Ranch  
WATER DISTRICT



## Save the Date

### Urban Landscape and Garden Education Expo

Saturday, Sept. 29  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

UC ANR South Coast Research and Extension Center  
7601 Irvine Blvd., Irvine

Learn how to dial back your watering and still have a beautiful yard. The expo features free workshops, vendors, landscape displays, and hands-on activities.

### Fall Resident Tours

Friday, Oct. 12, or  
Saturday, Oct. 13  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

IRWD Operations Center  
3512 Michelson Dr., Irvine

Customers who live or work in the IRWD service area are invited to tour our facilities while learning what we do. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Must be 16 or older.

**Sign-up required:**  
[irwd.com/learning/request-a-resident-tour](http://irwd.com/learning/request-a-resident-tour)

## Now's the Time to Water 30% Less



As the days get shorter, your landscaping needs less water. By September, plants naturally enter their dormant phase until spring. The shorter days also mean less water is lost through evaporation, regardless of temperatures. So dial back the water by 30%. You'll still have a beautiful yard and save a boatload of water. For a free watering guide, water-saving rebates and more, please visit [WateringGuide.com](http://WateringGuide.com).

### Fall Watering Schedule

Here is a suggested weekly watering schedule for traditional spray-head irrigation. Start with this schedule and adjust the times only if your plants show signs of stress. On [WateringGuide.com](http://WateringGuide.com), you'll find a full suite of watering schedules and irrigation system upgrade options.

	Grass	Drought-Tolerant Plants	%*
SEP	4 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	70%
OCT	3 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes	50%
NOV	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes	1 day, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	40%

\*Some irrigation controllers have a feature by which the watering times can be set by changing the percentage instead of specifically entering the days, cycles and minutes.

September is the time to water 30% less.  
Learn more at [WateringGuide.com](http://WateringGuide.com)



# UCI Chills with IRWD Recycled Water

There is something very cool about this year's unseasonably hot summer. A joint project between UC Irvine and IRWD has the university fending off the triple-digit temperatures using recycled water to air-condition 65 buildings on campus.

The Central Plant Recycled Water Conversion Project, completed in August, saves 80 million gallons of drinking water per year using tertiary treated sewer water from the Michelson Recycled Water Plant—in campus cooling towers that chill the water to a frosty 39 degrees for use in the university's air-conditioning system.

Drinking water saved from this project helped UCI meet its stretch goal to reduce per-capita drinking water use 50%—seven years ahead of schedule.

IRWD has been partnering with UCI since the early 1960s to use recycled water for landscape irrigation, in dual-plumbed buildings, and most recently with the cooling tower conversion. These efforts, combined with turf replacement, drought-tolerant landscaping and high-efficiency fixtures on campus save more than 300 million gallons of drinking water per year.



## A Refuge to Inspire Your Landscape



Take a trip to the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary—a hidden gem in Irvine. The RightScape demonstration garden surrounding the Visitors Center has more than three dozen plant varieties, each identified with a plant marker and QR code for mobile access to plant-care details. California native and non-native drought-tolerant plants are featured in two distinct sections of the landscape. Interpretive signs show how they differ in their growing characteristics and water needs.

Additional signs illustrate how efficient irrigation technology and scheduling keep the garden looking healthy. A stormwater bioswale, consisting of river rocks and stones, runs prominently through the demo garden—to collect rain or irrigation water, helping it seep into the ground instead of running off-site.

Wander through the sanctuary any day, dawn until dusk. Or sign up to see it Oct. 12 or 13 on IRWD's Fall Resident Tours.

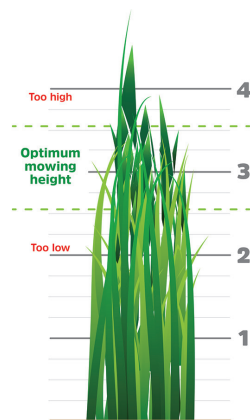
# Ask Juan



**Q:** My lawn is using quite a bit of water. Do you have any tips on ways I can minimize my lawn's water use rather than removing it?

**A:** One easy way to conserve water is to simply raise your mowing height, to anywhere from three to four inches. This will

increase leaf (blade) surface area, which increases photosynthesis, otherwise known as grass producing its own nutrients. It will store these nutrients and survive drought stress. Also, you will be mowing less frequently and the roots will grow deeper and more extensive, making deeper water available to the plant. For more tips and money-saving rebates, click on [WateringGuide.com](http://WateringGuide.com).



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

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