

Tips to Keep Bugs at Bay

Summer is cockroach season. Learn water-wise ways to keep them out of your house. Story at [IRWD.com/liquid-news](https://www.irwd.com/liquid-news).

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Our Team Is Here to Help You

IRWD offices remain closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But we're still here for you. Most transactions can be completed on [IRWD.com](https://www.irwd.com), or by email at CustomerService@IRWD.com. Full-service agents are available 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Thursday. If you prefer to call, dial [949-453-5300](tel:949-453-5300). We're experiencing high call volume—and long waits—on Mondays. So we recommend you call Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

For updates on IRWD's response to the pandemic and quick links to 24/7 service, visit our [Coronavirus Resource Page](https://www.irwd.com/services) at [IRWD.com/services](https://www.irwd.com/services).

Water Rates Won't Change

IRWD's new fiscal year begins July 1. Your water rates will not change. For details, visit [IRWD.com/rates-charges](https://www.irwd.com/rates-charges).

We're Ready for Fires or Blackouts



California is facing an extended fire season. And like last year, temporary power outages likely will occur to prevent electrical lines from sparking new blazes in dry and windy weather.

Irvine Ranch Water District is prepared to operate during these Public Safety Power Shutoffs, as well as other urgent situations. If a power shutoff is

called in your neighborhood, you should see no disruption in your water or sewer service.

We plan for emergencies in everything we do, making sure backup options are available. Here are some of the steps we take to be prepared:

- **Backup power** – Permanent generators are set up at IRWD's critical facilities, and portable generators can be moved quickly to where they are needed.
- **Monitoring** – We watch local weather to anticipate problems.
- **Plan of action** – We top off water storage tanks, mobilize equipment and supplies to where they may be needed, and work with other agencies to plan a coordinated response.
- **Facilities** – Several IRWD facilities have alternative sources of power such as solar to help supplement power needs. Our recycled water reservoirs serve as reliable sources of water to fight wildfires.

Visit [IRWD.com/psps](https://www.irwd.com/psps) for more information and safety tips.



Fire Safety Tips for Your Home

- Create a safety zone around your home by removing dead or dying vegetation.
- Plant fire-resistant plants as a firebreak (monkeyflower, California lilac, autumn sage, common yarrow, French lavender).
- Prepare an emergency escape plan with your family that includes how to respond to an evacuation order.
- Visit [ready.gov/wildfires](https://www.ready.gov/wildfires) for more information.

Cheers! Quality Report Is Here

Irvine Ranch Water District drinking water meets all of the exacting California and federal quality standards. Learn more in the new 2020 Water Quality Report, available now at IRWD.com/water-report. To request a printed copy, email info@IRWD.com with the subject line "Water Quality Report" or call 949-453-5500.



Ask Juan



Q: Juan, my watering seems to increase in the summer. Any advice?

A: Welcome to the peak time of year when water use is at its highest, especially for those grassy areas. This is the perfect time to consider, "How much grass do I need?" Does it serve a purpose? I like to barbecue and play with my kids on my backyard lawn. I used to have a lawn in my front yard that used quite a bit of water, but I took advantage of the turf removal

program to convert it into a water-friendly landscape. I kept my back lawn for recreation. Consider taking advantage of IRWD's turf removal program—which offers \$3 per square foot—to renovate your landscape. Visit RightScopeNow.com/rebates to learn more.

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

California Native Corner Juan's July Plant: Desert Willow

Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) is an attractive deciduous shrub that can be grown as a single- or multi-trunk small tree. Native to the southwest U.S. and Mexico, it blooms May–September. The fragrant, trumpet-shaped flowers vary in color—from white to lavender to pink—and attract hummingbirds, caterpillars and bees. Desert Willow grows fast and will tolerate any soil condition from arid to moist. It is an excellent addition to home landscapes and particularly effective near decks or patios. — Juan



Q: Does my IRWD water budget change throughout the year?

A: Yes, for customers with a yard to water, the water budget will change by season. In the summer, when it's hot and the days are longer, your budget will be slightly higher because plants need more water. When the days get shorter and it's cooler or rains, your water budget decreases. Even if the weather is hot in the fall, less water is needed to keep your landscape healthy than in summer months. The daylight hours are shorter, and plants use less water. Learn more at WateringGuide.com and IRWD.com/rates-charges.

Got a question for this new feature? Email info@IRWD.com with "Ask Customer Service" as the subject line.



It Only Takes Seconds for a Child to Drown

Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for kids under 5 in Orange County. So never leave a child alone near water. Pools should have fences, alarms and drains that meet regulations. And caring adults should learn CPR and water rescue skills. It just might save a life.

Always watch your child around water.

To learn more, visit DrowningPreventionOC.org



DROWNING PREVENTION TASK FORCE



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