

Question about IRWD construction?

Visit [IRWD.com/construction-projects](https://www.irwd.com/construction-projects) for information about current and upcoming projects.



Creepy, crawly and good for the garden

It's that time of year when yards are swarming with spooky decorations. But when it comes to bugs in your garden, not all creepy crawlers are as scary as they seem. Here are some critters that are good for the garden. They protect your plants by munching on pests as you sip away at your pumpkin spiced latte—or any time of year.

Predators we love

- **Ladybug larvae** – Ladybugs are cute; their larvae are terrifying—but they eat up to 40 aphids an hour.
- **Green lacewing larvae** – Also aphid-eaters!
- **Soldier beetles** – These tough guys prey on pests like Mexican bean beetles, Colorado potato beetles and aphids.
- **Hoverflies (or syrphid flies)** – The adult version of these bee-like flies are pollinators; the larvae eat aphids, beetles and thrips.
- **Dragonflies** – They'll take care of flies, gnats and mosquitoes.
- **Braconid wasps** – They gobble up aphids, beetles, hornworms, squash bugs and stink bugs.



Ladybug larva



Lacewing larva



Soldier beetle



Dragonfly

Predators to keep an eye on

Some pest-eaters are a little more ruthless. Monitor praying mantises, assassin bugs, certain spiders and ground beetles as they dine on both the bad and the good bugs. Don't let any of these pests in your garden: mites, scale, thrips, earwigs, aphids and snails.

Keeping communities safe from fire

Southern California's Santa Ana winds are notorious for fanning the flames of devastating brush fires. IRWD prepares for fires, winds and any corresponding loss of power in our service area, including Public Safety Power Shutoffs. Visit [IRWD.com/psps](https://www.irwd.com/psps) to learn more.

You can help protect your home and those of your neighbors by following these tips, particularly if you live near brush or wooded areas:

- Use fire-resistant materials for your roof, cover vent openings, and box in eaves and soffits.
- Create a safety zone around your house by trimming trees and removing dead or dying vegetation within 30 feet of the structure. Mow annual grass and create space between shrubs and trees within 100 feet of your home.
- Plant drought-tolerant and fire-resistant plants such as succulents, monkey flower, and California lilac.
- Visit [fire.ca.gov/prepare](https://www.fire.ca.gov/prepare) for more.

Rain gardens: where beauty runs deep

Ask Juan



Q: Juan, it looks like we're going to have another wet winter, and I'd like to revamp my landscape to capture the rain. Any suggestions?

A: This is a great time to consider how to capture and put rain to use in your landscape. The upgrades will serve you well in both wet and dry weather.

Consider a permeable walkway using flagstone spaced apart, a dry creek or rain garden within the landscape, and don't forget to apply for a rebate for a rain barrel or two at IRWD.com/rebates.

Rain gardens feature shallow depressions in the landscape that collect and soak up water flowing from paved areas, roofs and the surrounding landscape. They create a focal point in your yard that doubles as a natural habitat for butterflies, birds and wildlife that is useful when it is wet and beautiful when it is dry.

The Association of Professional Landscape Designers offers a great guide to help you get started: bit.ly/cawatershed.

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 IRWD.com/AskJuan.



California native corner

Juan's October plant: Chaparral Clematis

Chaparral Clematis (*Clematis lasiantha*) is best known for its distinct three-lobed leaves and creamy-white flowers that bloom from spring into summer. This easy-to-grow vine can reach lengths of up to 15 feet. Plant it in partial shade areas or near a trellis or fencing to allow it to spread and attract pollinators throughout the season — Juan



Save the date

Time to Plant

Wednesday, Nov. 15
6 p.m.

Select the right plants for your landscape. Learn more about California natives, seasonal water needs and horticultural care tips.

Sign-up required:
IRWD.com/events

Ask Customer Service

Q: Where is my water meter, and what does it do?

A: Residential water meters are located inside a cement box in the ground, usually near the end of a driveway or in a row near the multifamily units they serve.

The meter tracks the amount of water you use in cubic feet, like a car odometer records miles driven.

It can also help you determine if you have a leak. Turn off all water in your home, including appliances that use water. Jot down the number at the bottom of your meter and the location of the sweep hand. Wait a while and check the meter again. If the number has changed or the sweep hand has moved, you have a leak.

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

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