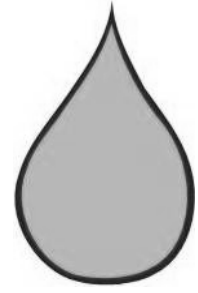


What is . . .

Water Wise?



WHAT DOES WATERWISE GARDENING MEAN?

Waterwise or water efficient landscaping simply means a method of gardening that involves choosing plants that are appropriate for our climate and can thrive with minimal watering once established. It is just some common sense guide lines to gardening when faced with mandatory or voluntary water restrictions. Most WaterWise plants will perform fine with limited water. They will even survive a severe drought however they will not be pleasant to look at.

THE FIRST STEP TO BECOMING WATERWISE IS TO ANALYZE YOUR EXISTING IRRIGATION METHODS, FREQUENCY AND DURATION.

HOW CAN WE REDUCE WATER USAGE WITH EXISTING IRRIGATION?

1. Repair broken sprinklers and check for underground leakage.
2. Have sprinklers adjusted to prevent overspray.
3. Set watering schedule between 12 AM and 6 AM (less wind factor and higher water pressure). It is okay to water between 6 AM and 12 noon, but only if necessary. Avoid watering between noon and midnight when possible.
4. Check for sprinkler run off. If the lawn or landscape is on a slope or the soil is difficult for water to penetrate, it may require shorter watering time and repeated cycle on the same morning.
5. Set sprinkler cycles to run less frequently but for longer periods of time for deeper root watering.

DO WE NEED TO REMOVE EXISTING LANDSCAPING AND REPLACE WITH MORE WATERWISE TREES, SHRUBS AND LAWNS?

No! Existing landscapes should not be removed or replaced with drought tolerant ones. Most plants perform well enough with proper WaterWise irrigating. It is best to use WaterWise plants in new landscapes or when existing plants are diseased or do not meet our satisfaction. Replacing existing landscapes can be costly. Even Waterwise plants require additional irrigating until they are established. It can take new plants anywhere from 6 to 18 months to become established.

WATERING PRIORITY IN CASE OF SEVERE DROUGHT

- Watering priority should always go to established trees for several reasons. They take the longest to recover and are more costly to replace. Established trees are more important to the environment for many reasons including the obvious, they make shade to cool our yards and homes.
- Large shrubs should take priority over smaller shrubs, groundcover, etc.
- Least important are lawns and bedding plants. Boths groups are fairly inexpensive to replace compared to the larger shrubs and trees. Lawns will often recover, even after extended periods of lack of water.