

Plant Low-Water Native Plants

Planting native plants will require less water, fertilizer and maintenance than others grown in milder climates. You can also check with your favorite local nursery for their suggestions about what is best suited to your specific area. Avoid harvesting (or digging up) wild plants. The disturbance to the ecosystem is irreversible, and most native plants don't transplant well.

This list is a brief representation of native, low-water consuming plants that are easily available. A more extended list can be found on our website www.29palmswater.org.

Cacti & Succulents

Barrel Cactus, Beaver-tail Cactus, Joshua Tree, Silver Cholla



Trees

Desert Willow, Fremont Cottonwood, Honey Mesquite, Pinon Pine



Perennials & Vines

Coyote Melon, Datura, Desert Marigold, Globe Mallow, Prickly Poppy



Landscaping and Conservation

In the average household, water use doubles in the summer, primarily due to landscape irrigation. But, conserving water does not have to mean a dry landscape.

Some Myths about Drought-Resistant Landscaping

1. Drought-tolerant landscaping isn't colorful.

In truth, many drought-tolerant plants are prolific bloomers. In addition, by carefully choosing foliage colors and textures for contrast, you can bring color interest to the garden year-round.

2. Only California-native plants are drought tolerant.

There are many benefits from using California native plants, but actually, many good drought-tolerant plants are available to us from the other Mediterranean-type climates around the world. Some of the most common of these plants are eucalyptus, oleander, and acacia.

3. Drought-tolerant landscaping doesn't require any water at all.

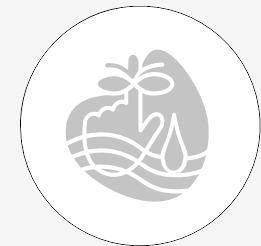
Even drought-resistant plants require some initial watering to become established. However, once they are established, drought-resistant plants will get by on considerably less water than we have been accustomed to lavishing on our landscape.

Twentynine Palms Water District

72401 Hatch Rd
PO Box 1735
Twentynine Palms CA 92277
Phone: 760-367-7546
Fax: 760-367-6612
Web: www.29palmswater.org

Twentynine Palms Water District

Be Water Wise



Use water wisely and keep
it clean, it's a way of life.

Why Conserve Water?

Water is earth's most precious resource. And with the Morongo Basin's desert climate, unpredictable rainfall, and growing population, we cannot take our water supply for granted. We must use water wisely to ensure we have an adequate supply, both now and in the future. Not only do conservation efforts help save this precious resource, they can also help reduce water bills. It's a win-win situation.

How To Check For Leaks

While you're carefully watching your water usage, it's important to make sure that water is not slipping away due to undetected leaks in your system. Here's a simple procedure that can tell you if you have a leak and how much water you're losing.

1. Locate your water meter. It is usually located near the street in front of your home.
2. Read the meter twice - first at night after the day's water use has ended, and again in the morning before any water is used.
3. Subtract the first number from the second reading to tell how much water (if any) leaked out overnight.
4. If you suspect a leak, your pipes and connections should be checked and repaired quickly.

The toilet is a common source of unnoticed leaks. Undetected, hundreds of gallons of water can be wasted each day. Often leaks occur when the toilet is out of adjustment or parts are worn. Listening carefully for the sound of running water is a good way to detect a possible leak. Food coloring or a dye tablet added to the tank will also reveal water leaking into the toilet bowl. Drop it in the tank and don't flush. If the water in the bowl turns color, you have a leak.

If you suspect a leak on your property and need assistance in determining its location, please contact the District.

Protecting Our Water Quality

Household chemicals and waste can pollute our water supply if we do not use them correctly and dispose of them properly. If they are flushed down the drain, they may end up in our groundwater. And if they are thrown into the garbage and hauled to the landfill, they may be leached, over time, into the soil and water surrounding the landfill.

So what products are considered to be household hazardous waste?

Outdoors: pesticides, fungicides, weed killers and pool chemicals. *Indoors:* ammonia and bleach-based cleaners, aerosol sprays, household polishes, fluorescent lamps, nail polish and remover, medications and syringes. *Automotive:* anti-freeze, oil and filters, gasoline, wax and auto polishes,

auto batteries, engine cleaners and brake fluid. *Other:* paint (all kinds), paint thinners, wood preservatives, glues and adhesives, solvents and photo chemicals.

You can protect our water quality by using and disposing of household chemicals and waste with care. Do not throw them in the trash, take them to a hazardous waste collection facility instead. You can also reduce/eliminate herbicide and pesticide applications as well as recycle used oil and other automotive products. For more information regarding disposal please call 1-800-OILY-CAT (645-9228).

Indoor Water Saving Tips

- Only run full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. This can save about 800 gallons of water a month. If you are purchasing a new washer or dishwasher sometime soon, purchase a water and energy saving model.
- Use water-saving showerheads and take shorter showers. Taking five minute showers while using a low-flow showerhead can save about 600 gallons of water a month.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets - if the toilet flapper valve leaks, it's an easy problem to fix and stops an enormous waste of water. This can save about 140 gallons of water a month.
- Don't let the water run while you're washing dishes, shaving or brushing your teeth.

Outdoor Water Saving Tips

- Consider replacing high-water usage landscape with a deck, patio or low-water use plants. Landscaping with plants and flowers that need little water can use 50 percent less water.
- Instead of a hose, use a broom to clean driveways and walkways. This can save about 150 gallons of water each time.
- Use an automatic shutoff nozzle on your hose.
- Cover pools and spas to reduce evaporation. Covering the pool can save about 1000 gallons of water a month.
- Use drip irrigation for your flowers, trees, gardens and landscape.



Try the concept of xeriscape, which means, "landscaping for water conservation." The idea utilizes plants that require less water. You can also decorate with objects that need no water, such as rock, brick, benches, gravel and deck areas.