

Low-Water and Drought-Resistant Plants

Plants that are adapted to long, dry summers and short, rainy winters are called "Mediterranean-zone" plants. These include plants that are native to California, as well as those that originated in southern Europe, South America and other "Mediterranean" climates. These plants don't need much water in the summer and have thrived in water-scarce conditions for thousands of years.

The plants listed below are appropriate for California's climate and use less water than what you may already have in your garden. This list is a good representation of low-water-consuming plants that are easily available. Check with your local nursery for its suggestions about what is best suited to your area.

TREES

- *Arbutus unedo* (Strawberry Tree)
- *Chitalpa tashkentensis* (Chitalpa)
- *Geijera parviflora* (Australian Willow)
- *Laurus nobilis* (Sweet Bay)
- *Olea europaea* (Swan Hill Olive)
- *Pinus eldarica* (Afghan Pine)
- *Prosopis chilensis* (Chilean Mesquite)
- *Quercus agrifolia* (Coast Live Oak)
- *Rhus lancea* (African Sumac)

VINES

- *Bougainvillea* species (Bougainvillea)
- *Macfadyena unguis-cati* (Cat's Claw)
- *Vitis californica* (California Wild Grape)

TURF

- *Buchloe dactyloides* (Buffalograss)
- *Cynodon dactylon* (Hybrid Bermudagrass)
- *Zoysia 'Victoria'* (Victoria Zoysiagrass)

GROUND COVER

- *Acacia redolens* (Desert Carpet)
- (Dwarf Prostrate Acacia)
- *Achillea* species (Yarrow)
- *Baccharis* species (Coyote Brush)
- (Bearberry Cotoneaster)
- *Lampranthus* species (Ice Plant)
- *Lantana montevidensis* (Trailing Lantana)
- *Myoporum parvifolium* (Myoporum)
- *Sedum* species (Stonecrop)



"Ice Plant"

PERENNIALS, SHRUBS AND GRASSES

- *Agave* species (Agave)
- *Alyogyne huegelii* (Blue Hibiscus)
- *Arctostaphylos* species (Manzanita)
- *Artemisia* species (Sagebrush)
- *Ceanothus* species (California Lilac)
- *Chamelaucium uncinatum* (Geraldton Waxflower)
- *Cistus* species (Rockrose)
- *Dudleya* species (Live Forever)
- *Echeveria* species (Hens-and Chickens)
- *Encelia californica* (California Encelia)
- *Galvezia speciosa* (Island Bush Snapdragon)
- *Grevillea* species (Grevillea)
- *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (Toyon)
- *Lavandula* species (Lavender)
- *Leucophyllum* species (Texas Ranger)
- *Lobelia laxiflora* (Mexican Bush Lobelia)
- *Mahonia nevinii* (Nevin's Barberry)
- *Melalueca nesophila* (Pink Melaleuca)
- *Myrtus communis* (Common Myrtle)
- *Nassella* species (Needlegrass)
- *Penstemon* species (Penstemon)
- *Rhus* species (Sumac)
- *Rosmarinus officinalis* (Rosemary)
- *Salvia*, selected species (Sage)
- *Sisyrinchium bellum* (Blue-Eyed Grass)
- *Tapetes lemmonii* (Copper Canyon Daisy)
- *Verbena*, selected species (Verbena)



"Lavender"

INDOORS

Water is essential to each of us every day. But it's a limited resource, so we all need to rethink the way we use water on a daily basis. By following these water-saving tips inside your home, you can help save water every day, whether or not California is in a drought:

LAUNDRY ROOM

Use the washing machine for full loads only to save water and energy. Install a water-efficient clothes washer.
***Save: 16 gallons/load.**

KITCHEN

Run the dishwasher only when full to save water and energy. Install a water and energy-efficient dishwasher.
***Save: 3 to 8 gallons/load.**

Install aerators on the kitchen faucet to reduce flows to less than one gallon per minute.



Every
DROP
counts



BATHROOM

Install low-flow shower heads.
***Save: 2.5 gallons/minute.**

Take five minute showers instead of 10 minute showers.
***Save: Reducing five minutes will save 2.5 gallons with a low flow showerhead, 25 gallons with a standard 5 gallon per minute showerhead.**

Fill the bathtub halfway or less.
***Save: 12 gallons.**

Install a high-efficiency toilet.
***Save: 19 gallons per person.**

Install aerators on bathroom faucets.

***Save: 1.2 gallons per person.**

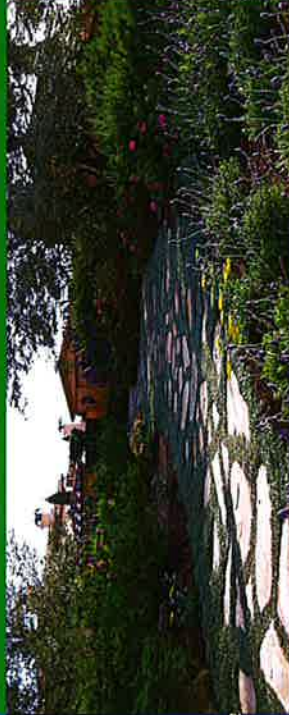
Turn water off when brushing teeth or shaving.

***Save: 8 gallons per day.**

Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.

***Save: 1.6 to 5 gallons per flush.**

OUTDOORS



By replacing part of your lawn with water-wise plants, could help save 40 gallons a day of water.

LANDSCAPING

Reduce your watering days to once or twice per week. Water your lawn only when it needs it. Water early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are cooler.
***Save: 25 gallons/each time you water.**

Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house or sidewalk.
***Save: 12 to 15 gallons/each time you water.**

Choose a water-efficient irrigation system such as drip irrigation for your trees, shrubs and flowers.
***Save: 15 gallons/each time you water.**

Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and keep the soil cool. Organic mulch also improves the soil and prevents weeds.

***Save: 20 to 30 gallons/each time you water per 1,000 sq. ft.**

Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.

***Save: 30 to 60 gallons/each time you water per 1,000 sq. ft.**

CLEANUP

Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and patios, not your hose.
***Save: 8 to 18 gallons per minute.**

Wash cars or boats with a bucket, sponge and a hose with self-closing nozzle.
***Save: 8 to 18 gallons per minute.**

ACTIVITIES

Install a pool/spa cover to reduce

Evaporation and filter backwash.

***Save: 30 gallons/day.**

Test pool/spa water frequently and maintain appropriate chemical balances to avoid the need to drain it except for structural repairs. Check your pool/spa for leaks.