



# LANDSCAPING RESOURCES

The listed resources are intended to provide information to residents and applicants about water conservation in landscaping and programs that can help to create a water-efficient landscape and/or comply with the City's landscaping and irrigation regulations. Resources are available online. A limited number of hard copies are available at the One-Stop Permit Center. For more details on landscaping, irrigation and usable open space requirements, **Chapter 19.37** of the Sunnyvale Municipal Code.

## WATER-WISE PLANTS

- [Water Conserving Plants](#) and [Trees for Conserving Water](#), City of Sunnyvale Planning Division ([www.sunnyvaleplanning.com](http://www.sunnyvaleplanning.com))
- [A Guide to Estimating Water Needs of Landscape Plantings in California](#), (WUCOLS), CA Dept. of Water Resources and University of California Cooperative Extension, (<http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/docs/wucols00.pdf>)
- [California Native Plant Society](#) ([www.cnps.org/](http://www.cnps.org/))
- [Santa Clara Valley Water District Approved Plant List](#) (<http://www.valleywater.org/Programs/Water-WisePlants.aspx>)
- [Water-Wise Gardening for Santa Clara County](#), GardenSoft CD-ROM, Santa Clara Valley Water District - The Water-Wise Gardening for Santa Clara County CD-ROM provides a wealth of plant information and landscaping ideas. This PC software includes hundreds of local garden photos, low water use plant information, an extensive plant list and a water-wise gardening guide. To request a free copy of the CD, Santa Clara County residents can contact the Water Conservation Hotline at (408) 265-2607, ext. 2554. Limited copies may be available at the One-Stop Permit Center.

## CITY OF SUNNYVALE LINKS

Water conservation tips and programs that are available for Sunnyvale residents and businesses are posted on the website.

- [www.waterconservation.insunnyvale.com](http://www.waterconservation.insunnyvale.com)
- [www.green.insunnyvale.com](http://www.green.insunnyvale.com)

## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR)

[www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance](http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance)

The Department of Water Resources website contains many resources regarding water efficiency in landscaping, including plant selection, tips for plant establishment for an efficient irrigation system. The brochures listed below are available on the website. Limited copies may be available at the One-Stop Permit Center.

- [Parks & Commercial Landscapes Water Use Efficiency Ideas](#) (also *Parques Y Paisajes Comerciales*)
- [The Essential Toolkit for Making Your Home Landscape Water Efficient](#)
- [Residential Landscape Water Use Efficiency Ideas](#)
- [Water Efficient Landscapes](#)
- [Irrigation Controllers for the Homeowner](#)

*In California, the largest use of all urban water is watering landscapes. When a landscape or irrigation system is poorly designed or poorly maintained, or the landscape consists of plants not suited to the California climate, water demand increases as a result of excessive evaporation, leaks, and runoff. Water consumption can be greatly reduced with careful planning, good plant selection, efficient irrigation systems, and good water management and maintenance practices.*

### WATER-EFFICIENT PLANTING TIPS

- Use lower water use grass types such as dwarf tall fescues or St. Augustine grass.
- Reduce the amount of turf or other high water use plants. Concentrate these in high visibility and/or high pedestrian use areas.
- Group plants with similar water needs for more effective irrigation.

## SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT (SCVWD)

[www.valleywater.org/Programs/Landscaping.aspx](http://www.valleywater.org/Programs/Landscaping.aspx) or 408-265-2607 (ext. 2554)

- Water-Wise House Calls, Landscape Survey and Rebate Programs

## BAY AREA WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION AGENCY (BAWSCA)

[www.bawasca.org/water-conservation](http://www.bawasca.org/water-conservation) or 650-349-3000

- [Water-Wise Gardening in the Bay Area](#) - Online software that contains garden photo galleries and information on how to garden beautifully while saving water. Select plants type, size, sun exposure and more.

## WATER CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPING WORKSHOPS

The City partners SCVWD and BAWSCA to host workshops where residents can learn how to reduce water use in their gardening practices. Workshop topics include gardening with low-water use or native plants, water-efficient irrigation hardware, mulching and other water-wise gardening tips. For more information, including upcoming workshops, visit the links above or contact SCVWD and BAWSCA.

## OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

- [California Urban Water Conservation Council](http://www.cuwcc.org)  
([www.cuwcc.org](http://www.cuwcc.org))
- [East Bay Municipal Utility District](http://www.ebmud.com)  
([www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com))
- [Bay-Friendly Gardening](http://www.stopwaste.org/) and [Bay-Friendly Landscaping](http://www.stopwaste.org/)  
([www.stopwaste.org/](http://www.stopwaste.org/))
- [WaterSense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Partnership Program  
(<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>)

### **PLANTING SIZE RECOMMENDATIONS**

*To achieve immediate effect in a landscape, plant the following minimum sizes:*

- 5-gallon for shrubs
- 1-gallon for ground cover and install 12 inches apart on center

### **TREE-STAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Install 2 stakes per tree, each stake attached to the tree in at least two places
- Each stake should be the same height as the tree and be at least 2.5 in. in diameter
- Install the stakes at least 2.5 ft. into the ground