

Time for a landscape checkup!

Follow IRWD's handy checklist to fine-tune your irrigation system! Go to IRWD.com/checklist.

pipelines

MAY 2022



Irvine Ranch
Water District

IRWD and UCI set example for the nation



When it comes to helping customers save water, Irvine Ranch Water District teams up with residents and businesses alike. One of our earliest partners in our WaterStar business program is U.C. Irvine, which has been using IRWD recycled water on campus for more than 50 years.

Our collaboration with the university was recently honored with a national Award of Excellence from the WaterReuse Association for accomplishments stemming from our decades of water-saving work:

- Converting campus cooling to recycled water, saving 80 million gallons of drinking water each year.

- Turf replacement, drought-tolerant landscaping, and high-efficiency fixtures on campus, saving another 300 million gallons of drinking water a year.

These and other projects have already pushed UCI well beyond the University of California's policy goal to cut water use 26% by 2025. To learn more about our WaterStar program for businesses, visit RightScape.com/waterstar. For more information about recycled water, visit IRWD.com/recycled-water.

Local young artists honored for water posters

The work of seven talented students in IRWD's service area beat out other young artists from throughout Orange County to win the Municipal Water District of O.C.'s annual Water Awareness Poster Contest.

Each year, students participate through their local water agencies, including Irvine Ranch Water District. Congratulations to the following IRWD students, who are among the 40 winners selected by MWDOC:

- **Andrew Kim**, grade 10, Portola High School
- **Annette Kim**, grade 9, Portola High School
- **Habeen Lee**, grade 9, Arnold O. Beckman High School
- **Katie Hannah**, grade 8, Orchard Hills School
- **Aanya Pillai**, grade 7, Vista Verde School
- **Siwon (Daniel) Lee**, grade 5, Cadence Park School
- **Brandon Park**, grade 5, Eastwood Elementary

Next, these winners—and five other finalists selected by IRWD—will compete in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's regional contest for a chance to win a spot in its annual "Water Is Life" calendar.



Andrew Kim



Annette Kim



Brandon Park

Save the date

Biosolids Virtual Tour

Online event

Thursday, May 12
Noon – 1 p.m.

IRWD's new Biosolids and Energy Recovery Facility closes the loop on the sewage treatment process. Learn how it turns what others consider waste into a beneficial soil amendment, while producing fuel to power the plant.

Sign-up required:
RightScape.com/events

Smarter Sprinkler

Online webinar

Wednesday, May 18
Noon – 1 p.m.

Make your sprinkler system smarter with the latest technology such as weather-based timers and more.

Sign-up required:
RightScape.com/events

Leak detectives sleuth out water waste and win

Everyone is a winner when it comes to saving water—and during IRWD's annual Fix a Leak Sweepstakes, seven lucky customers got the added bonus of receiving a \$100 Home Depot gift card for their good deeds.

Participation was fierce as customers submitted photos of themselves checking their toilets and other sources for leaks during Fix a Leak Week. The lucky porcelain sleuths to win the gift cards this year were: **Julie Belmore, Ken Diep, Catherine Goerndt, Antonio Gonzalez, Steven Lam, Susan Nguyen** and **Paul Prosser**. Congratulations!

A leaking toilet can waste up to 50 gallons of water per day. Fixing it is simple, and it will save you money on your water bill. Visit RightScape.com/training-center to learn more.



Q: Juan, now that spring is nearly over, can I still plant?

A: Ideally, the best time to plant is late fall through winter, as this will allow plants to develop a deep and vast root system to beat the heat of summer. But with a vigilant eye and deep but infrequent watering, you can still plant. It just takes a little more upkeep.

One recommendation is to focus on smaller, 1- to 5-gallon plants, whose roots will establish themselves more quickly in the soil. Another is to make sure to mulch to reduce soil temperature and retain moisture for better root development.

With a little care, you'll be successful, and your landscape will thrive for years to come.

Got landscape questions? Email AskJuan@IRWD.com or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://twitter.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at RightScape.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan.

California native corner

Juan's May plant: Blue-eyed grass

Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) is a perennial herb found throughout California. It is easy to grow and readily reseeds. From spring through summer, it produces spikes of blue-to-lavender flowers that hover above the foliage. It does well in full sun but performs best in low light conditions. When blooms are spent, it dies back to the ground and is summer dormant until the following year. Learn more at CalScape.org and CalScape.org/planting-guide.php. — Juan



Q: I want to do my part to save water, especially now during the drought. What can I do?

A: Visit IRWD.com/rightscape to browse a full library of tips and how-to videos to help you save water.

Click on the "How Do I" tab at the top left of the home page for instructions on everything from applying for a rebate to fixing leaks, planting a water-efficient landscape, and more.

The "Fix a Leak" option in the drop-down menu features helpful videos explaining how to check your home for leaks—with specific information on seepage in irrigation systems and toilets, two major sources of water waste.

A leaky faucet can waste up to 250 gallons per month. An irrigation leak can squander even more: up to 6,300 gallons per month, according to the U.S. EPA.

Thanks for caring about your water use.

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

24-Hour customer service: 949-453-5300

Email: CustomerService@IRWD.com

Address: 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618

Website: IRWD.com

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