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# pipelines

JANUARY 2022



Irvine Ranch  
WATER DISTRICT

## Save the date

### The Naturally Beautiful Yard

Online webinar

Wednesday, Feb. 16  
Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Learn the steps to remove your lawn and replace it with a water-efficient garden.

**Sign-up required:**  
[RightScape.com/events](http://RightScape.com/events)

## Get The Dirt on gardening

Find gardening inspiration in *The Dirt*, IRWD's quarterly electronic newsletter promoting beautiful, water-efficient SoCal landscaping. To read the winter issue and sign up to receive future issues via email each season, visit [RightScape.com/The-Dirt](http://RightScape.com/The-Dirt).



## Storing more water for dry times ahead



Syphon Reservoir

Recycled water keeps our community green and beautiful, even during periods of drought. It makes up 27% of IRWD's water supply and is used to irrigate 85% of all common areas throughout our service area. Every gallon of recycled water we use saves a gallon of drinking water. And that adds up to 28 million gallons a day.

But even with four local reservoirs to hold it, we need more capacity to store all the water we recycle.

Managing recycled water is a balancing act: During cool, wet winter months, the community does a lot less watering; the reservoirs fill up, and we run out of room to store recycled water. Then in the summer, when irrigation demands ramp up, our recycled reservoirs

are depleted, and we need to buy expensive water from Northern California or out of state to make up the difference.

To make sure we can make the most of all the recycled water we produce, IRWD plans to expand its Syphon Reservoir in Irvine. The Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project will increase capacity ninefold, from 188 million gallons to 1.6 billion gallons.

It's an investment in the future that will let us store significantly more recycled water in winter to keep our community green and self-sufficient all year-round—and long into the future.

Visit [SyphonReservoirProject.com](http://SyphonReservoirProject.com) for more information.

## Make gardening resolutions



If you've been thinking about upgrading the shrubbery in your landscape to more water-efficient plants, now's a good time to act. The new year is an ideal time for planting your new garden. Water-efficient plants thrive in our climate and can add beauty to your yard. Many also attract birds and butterflies. There are hundreds of attractive and easy-care varieties to choose from. Learn more at [RightScapeResources.com](http://RightScapeResources.com).

# The art of water efficiency

Vivienne Tsang is an IRWD customer who really gets it. She knows water is too precious to use just once—which is why recycled water is important.

Vivienne, from Jennifer Condon's third-grade class at Canyon View Elementary, is a winner of the 2021 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Water Awareness Poster Contest. Her artwork, which will appear in the agency's 2022 calendar, concisely illustrates how IRWD teams up with natural microorganisms to clean up the water that goes down your drains, then pumps it through purple pipes for irrigation and other cool uses.



Vivienne Tsang's winning poster of the 2021 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Water Awareness Poster Contest

Kids, visit [IRWD.com/postercontest](http://IRWD.com/postercontest) to enter this year's contest. And click [IRWD.com/recycled-water](http://IRWD.com/recycled-water) to learn all about recycling. Congratulations, Vivienne!



**Q:** I have been trying to match IRWD's recommended dripline watering schedule. Is it for drip using quarter-inch tubing with emitters at the end?

**A:** Thank you for reaching out. Our drip schedule is specifically for people who have inline drip irrigation with emitters built into the lines, which must be spaced out according to the manufacturer. Drip applies

water at a very slow rate and operates on a unique schedule to allow the water time to permeate the soil deeper. Use any irrigation guide as a reference, and always adjust to make sure your landscape is getting just the right amount of water it needs.

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

## California native corner

### Juan's January plant: woolly blue curls

Woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) are highly fragrant shrubs, producing tall spikes of fuzzy lavender, blue, pink, and white flowers that blossom in dense clusters. The blooms are rich in nectar, attracting pollinators. Native to local oak woodlands, chaparral, and coastal sage scrub communities, it can be used as a flowering accent shrub on slopes and around rocks. No summer watering is needed once established. Learn more at [CalScape.org](https://www.CalScape.org) and [CalScape.org/planting-guide.php](https://www.CalScape.org/planting-guide.php). — Juan



**Q:** I think I have a water leak somewhere. What should I do?

**A:** Leaks contribute significantly to needless water waste and higher water bills. But don't worry. We're here to help. Take these steps to find the problem:

- Turn off all water and check your meter to see if the dial is still spinning. (If it is, you probably have a leak.)
- Run a test of your irrigation system to check for broken sprinkler heads or puddles that indicate a cracked pipe.
- Check indoor fixtures and toilets. (A leaking toilet can waste 40 gallons a day!)
- Visit [RightScape.com](https://www.RightScape.com) for do-it-yourself videos and tips.

Got a question? Email [info@IRWD.com](mailto:info@IRWD.com) with "Ask Customer Service" as the subject line.

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