



► It's important for IRWD customers to be Always Water Smart.

PAGE 1



► Free water awareness tours and landscape workshop.

PAGE 1



► Weekly Winter Water Schedule - turn water off before rains.

PAGE 2



► Irrigation Tips and California Friendly Shrubs to Plant this Winter.

PAGE 3



IRWD

# pipelines

JANUARY | 2009

Always Water Smart

## Now more than ever, IRWD customers need to be Always Water Smart

California is in a drought and possibly facing state water supply restrictions. While IRWD customers already have a great track record at conserving water, IRWD has incentives, conservation tips and devices that will help you to continue to reduce your monthly water bills and at the same time - save even more water.

Please visit [www.AlwaysWaterSmart.com](http://www.AlwaysWaterSmart.com) to learn more about IRWD's conservation program and how you can do your part to help save water while reducing your water bill.

## Free Water Awareness Tours

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) offers free Water Awareness Tours to all its customers. The Spring tours will be held on April 25, May 2 and May 16.

These tours, open to those who live or work within IRWD boundaries, are an excellent opportunity to gain valuable information about the water system, wastewater treatment, recycled water use, and conservation tips. The free tours start promptly at 8 a.m. and conclude at approximately 2 p.m. The tours fill up very quickly and are first come first-served based on the date we receive your reservation. We are unable to accommodate children under 16 years of age.

Customers may register on the IRWD Web site at [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) or call (949) 453-5500.

## Love Your Garden... ...and your water bill

SAVE WATER - SAVE MONEY - SAVE THE OCEAN

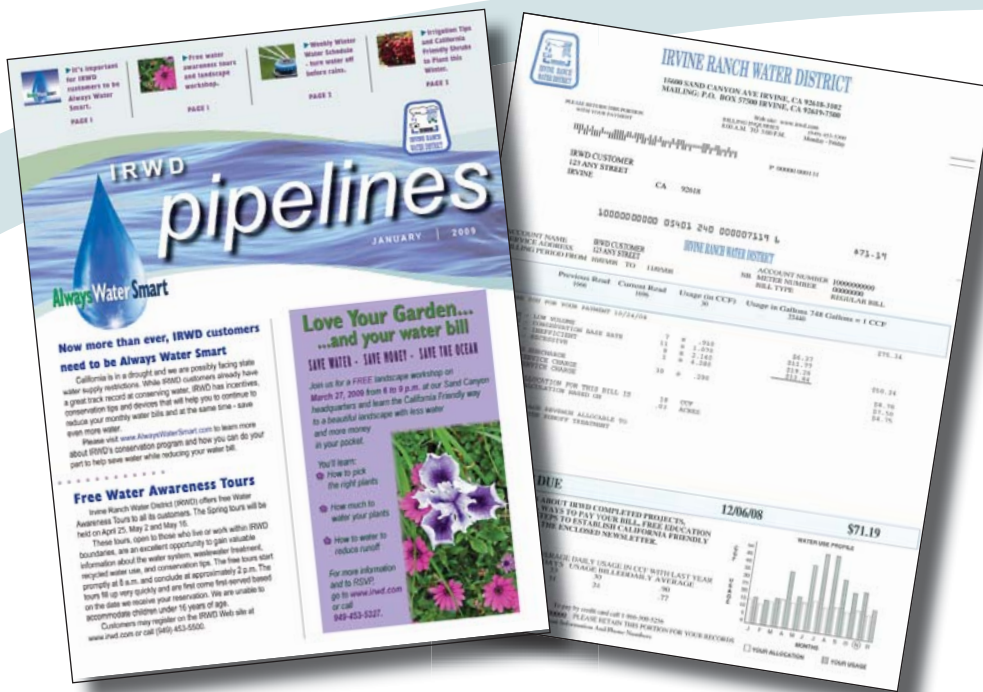
Join us for a **FREE** landscape workshop on **March 27, 2009 from 6 to 9 p.m.** at our Sand Canyon headquarters and learn the California Friendly way to a beautiful landscape with less water and more money in your pocket.

You'll learn:

- ✿ How to pick the right plants
- ✿ How much to water your plants
- ✿ How to water to reduce runoff

For more information and to RSVP, go to [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) or call 949-453-5327.





## We have a new look!

Irvine Ranch Water District introduces a new bill size and newsletter this month.

As a reminder, the payment stub is located at the top of your bill and there's a perforation, so that you can easily tear off the top portion to be returned with your payment.

For billing questions, please call Customer Service at (949) 453-5300.

## IRWD Board Names New President

The Irvine Ranch Water District Board of Directors selected Douglas J. Reinhart to serve as President and Peer A. Swan to serve as Vice President at its annual organization meeting on Dec. 15.

Reinhart was appointed to the board in 2004 to fill a vacancy and was subsequently elected to a four-year term in 2006. He is a registered civil engineer with more than 30 years of experience in the private sector, directing projects in water, wastewater and other infrastructure.

Swan has been a member of the board since 1979. He is active in the Association of California Water Agencies, where he serves on the Board of Directors as the Vice Chairman of Region 10. Swan is president of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary Board of Directors.

The IRWD Board meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at IRWD headquarters, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

### Effective January 1, 2009,

IRWD's High Efficiency Toilet (HET) rebate amount is up to \$200 per toilet. Limit three HET rebates per residence. Go to [www.AlwaysWaterSmart.com](http://www.AlwaysWaterSmart.com) for details.

## eBill Service Makes it Easy for You

IRWD encourages customers to "go green" and eliminate paper altogether by signing up for electronic billing, or eBill service. It's a convenient and secure way to view and pay your water bill at anytime from your computer. It's easy and beneficial for the environment.

You may sign up through IRWD's website or you may choose to sign up with an authorized eBill payment provider. Payment providers are typically a bank, credit union or other portal that offers you

the added benefit of being able to pay your bills online.

IRWD offers our customers several convenient payment options. In addition to eBill service, other payment options include credit card payment, automatic payment, by mail or in person.

For more information, please visit IRWD's website ([www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com)) or call IRWD's Customer Service at (949) 453-5300.

## Suggested Weekly Winter Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turfgrass	Tree, Shrubs & Groundcover	% Option**
January	2 days, 2 cycles* of 2 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes each	30%
February	2 days, 2 cycles of 2 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	30%
March	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	50%

Always remember to turn water off before rains and let soil dry before turning water on again.

\* By "cycling" the irrigation controller to turn on for the recommended number of minutes an hour apart, deeper watering and healthier root growth are gained, while runoff is reduced.

\*\*The % option, either a button or a dial, permits the watering run times for all electric valves managed by a controller to be increased or decreased with just one adjustment by percentage.



# Irrigation tips 'n' tune-ups

## Colorful California Friendly Shrubs to Plant this Winter

If you've been thinking about upgrading the shrubbery in your landscape or garden to more water-efficient plant varieties, now's a good time to take action. Winter is an optimum season for planting California Friendly shrubs. These plants thrive in our Mediterranean climate and can be inexpensively maintained for several reasons: once established, they use little or no water, they don't require elaborate soil conditioning or fertilizers and they're naturally pest-resistant. They also attract native wildlife like birds and butterflies. There are hundreds of attractive and easy-to-care-for California Friendly shrubs to choose from; here are five colorful non-invasive varieties for starters:



### Cleveland sage

(*Salvia clevelandii*)

This California native has graceful silvery-green leaves, arching branches, and whorls of purple flowers that bloom between May and August. Grows up to 4 feet tall and wide. Requires full sun.



### bush poppy and island bush poppy

(*Dendromecon rigida* and *D. harfordii*)

Beautiful yellow poppies cover this evergreen shrub that grows up to 6 feet tall or can be maintained at 3 feet. It is frequently used for backgrounds and large scale situations. Its leaves are blue-grey-green. Do not provide this shrub with summer water.



### pineapple guava

(*Acca sellowiana* or *Feijoa sellowiana*)

This evergreen shrub has scarlet and white flowers, as delicious as they are beautiful, that produce waxy-green oval-shaped fruits with a minty-pineapple flavor. This plant can be pruned to almost any size or shape. Its foliage is gray-green and silvery underneath. Requires full sun.



### toyon or Christmas berry

(*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)

Birds love the brilliant red berries that this 8 to 15 foot-high California native evergreen shrub produces in large clusters from delicate white flowers. Toyon likes full sun or partial shade and tolerates heat, smog, wind and drought. It also can be pruned into a small tree.



### lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)

A member of the Sumac family, lemonade berry is an evergreen shrub with berry-like seeds. Its leaves, like many drought-resistant plants, are tough and waxy. In blooming season, it has tiny 1/8 inch, white or rose-colored flowers with 5 petals. These flowers, which tend to grow in clusters, turn into red corn nut-sized berries that have a lemony scent. The lemonade berry blooms from February through May. This native shrub thrives best in coastal areas and can grow up to 30 feet in high.

For more California Friendly plant suggestions, visit "The Garden Spot" at [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com).



#### 24 Hour Service

**949.453.5300**

Should you discover a disruption in your water service or other problems call the IRWD 24-hour emergency line and a representative will assist you.

The mission of Irvine Ranch Water District, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer service in an efficient, cost effective manner and environmentally sensitive way that provides a high level of customer satisfaction.

#### IRWD Board of Directors

Douglas J. Reinhart, Pres.  
Peer A. Swan, V.P.  
Mary Aileen Matheis  
Darryl G. Miller  
John B. Withers

#### General Manager

Paul D. Jones II



## IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

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# Community Calendar

#### IRWD HOLIDAY & EVENTS

- **Monday, February 16** - IRWD Holiday (offices closed)
- **Friday, March 27 from 6 to 9 p.m.** - IRWD Landscape Workshop
- **Saturday, April 25; Saturday, May 2; and Saturday, May 16** - IRWD Resident Tours. See page one for information.

#### SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS

- **Audubon House** - Open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. For more information contact the Audubon House at (949) 261-7963 or visit their website at [www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org).

#### FAMILIES FORWARD

- Due to the current economic crisis, the number of families coming to Families Forward for assistance increases weekly. Families Forward's mission is to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, counseling, education and other support services. Currently 100+ families receive groceries each week from the food assistance program. Help support these families through financial donations as well as food donations. Grocery and gas gift cards are also needed.
- Donations can be brought to Families Forward, 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, CA 92618, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Call (949) 552-2727 for further information or visit their website at [www.families-forward.org](http://www.families-forward.org) to learn more about the work of Families Forward.

#### IRVINE GARDEN CLUB

- Come and join the Irvine Garden Club for regular speakers on local gardening topics and to exchange growing tips and ideas. Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. (except Jan./July/Sept.). The meetings are held at IRWD. Visit [www.irvinegardenclub.com](http://www.irvinegardenclub.com) or send an e-mail to [Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.com](mailto:Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.com).

#### SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- Service hours are available for all volunteer tree planting activities. For more information call (949) 453-5312. Online registration available at [www.shadetreepartnership.org](http://www.shadetreepartnership.org).

#### MASTER GARDENERS OF ORANGE COUNTY

- The University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Orange County are a dedicated group of trained volunteers that provide assistance and share information about gardening in and around the Orange County area. For more information call their hotline at (714) 708-1646, visit their website at [www.uccemg.com](http://www.uccemg.com) or send an e-mail to [ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com](mailto:ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com).

#### ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE

- **Assistance League of Irvine Thrift and Gift Shop** - 17801 Main Street, Suite H (Sky Park South), Irvine, (949) 955-3437. Donations welcome during normal business hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. To learn more about the Assistance League and membership call (949) 725-9188 or visit their website at [www.irvine.assistanceleague.org](http://www.irvine.assistanceleague.org).

*As a service to residents we feature a calendar of IRWD and community events. Events or activities of community-wide interest may be included in the community calendar. We reserve the right to edit submissions and include only those items of most interest to the public. If your group has an event you would like to include, please submit written information, including event date, time, place, contact person's name and telephone number. Mail your request to IRWD, Public Affairs Dept., P.O. Box 57000, Irvine, California 92619-7000, FAX to (949) 453-1327 or e-mail your request to [velazquez@irwd.com](mailto:velazquez@irwd.com)*