



The newsletter of IRWD

October 2013 | Number 10

## Fire Resistant Plants Protect Your Home

**F**ire resistant plants help protect your home and also consume less water than many other plants, making them an excellent choice for landscaping.

Irvine Ranch Water District customers who live in the foothill and canyon areas are more vulnerable to fires and would benefit from including fire resistant plants in their landscape. Below are a few options for homeowners to consider when planting:

### Shrubs

- **Monkeyflower** (*Mimulus sp*): This entire species is endorsed for use by the Orange County Fire Authority. Be sure to check out the drought-tolerant varieties.
- **California lilac** (*Ceanothus sp*): The California lilac is a large shrub with a dense mass of dark green, one-inch leaves, with dark blue clusters of flowers appearing in spring. It requires good drainage, can tolerate summer water and grows to six feet.
- **Autumn sage** (*Salvia greggii*): Nothing evokes California quite like a sage-scented hillside. Beloved by hummingbirds and firefighters alike, the autumn sage is endorsed for use by the Orange County Fire Authority.



Monkeyflower

### Groundcover

- **Common yarrow** (*Achillea*): This appears on fire-resistant lists for the California Native Plant Society and the Orange County Fire Authority.
- **French lavender** (*Ceanothus sp*): Although not a true California native, this attractive drought-tolerant plant makes fire-resistant lists for Orange County.



Common yarrow



Coast live oak

### Trees

- **Coast live oak** (*Quercus agrifolia*): A handsome shade tree, round-headed with dense foliage, the coast live oak grows 20–70 feet tall. It has smooth, dark gray bark, with leathery dark green leaves. It is native to Coastal, Central and Southern California.
- **California sycamore** (*Platanus racemosa*): Sycamores have delighted generations of Californians, and this particular variety is endorsed for use by the Orange County Fire Authority.
- **Toyon** (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*): A classic California native, it has white flowers in the summer and berries in the winter. It gets good marks from the Orange County Fire Authority.

To view photos and more information about these plants and others, visit [www.IRWDcalscape.org](http://www.IRWDcalscape.org).

### Stay Informed

#### Sign Up for CodeRED

Don't wait for an emergency to happen before you sign up for CodeRED®, a high-volume, high-speed system for mass emergency notifications. Since 2010, IRWD has kept customers informed in times of water-related emergencies with CodeRED.

Customers have the option of receiving voice, email or text messages within an hour of an emergency. For example, if there is a water main break that affects certain neighborhoods, residents of those neighborhoods will be informed of the problem, an estimated time for the repairs and any other pertinent information.

Signing up for CodeRED is as easy as going to the IRWD website. Click on "Emergency & CodeRED" on the left-hand side of the home page.

## Did You Know?

### Q. Does IRWD offer water education programs for students?

A. IRWD has provided quality water education for students in our service area for more than 30 years. Through a partnership with Discovery Science Center, the IRWD elementary school programs are grade-specific and taught in an assembly format. IRWD's middle school program, also in partnership with Discovery Science Center, culminates in a field trip to the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. The program runs in schools throughout the IRWD service area.

For more information, visit [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) and click "Learning."

## Thinking of Renovating Your Garden?

California-appropriate plants are perfectly suited for our mild winters and warm, dry summers. They're low maintenance, use little water and don't need soil preparation or fertilizing. For a one-stop shop with garden tours, garden galleries, a searchable plant database and a garden resources section, visit [www.IRWDcalscape.org](http://www.IRWDcalscape.org). You can also take a tour of two dozen CALscape gardens found throughout the IRWD service area.



If you're looking for even more of an incentive to renovate your garden, receive up to \$1 per square foot of grass removed with our Turf Removal Rebate Program. For more information, visit our website, or call the Water Use Efficiency Department at 949-453-5581.

### Suggested Weekly Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turfgrass	Trees, Shrubs & Ground Cover	% Option <sup>2</sup>
October	3 days, 2 cycles <sup>1</sup> of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	50%
November	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	40%
December	2 days, 2 cycles of 2 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	30%

The above chart suggests a weekly schedule for spray-head irrigation, assuming heavy clay soils common to most local coastal and foothill areas. Generally, these are the MAXIMUM times you will need for full sun areas. Your landscape's particular watering times may vary. Start with this schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the watering time.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## Customer Service Information

IRWD Website Link & Social Media Channels »

### 24 Hour Customer Access

(949) 453-5300

email: [customerservice@irwd.com](mailto:customerservice@irwd.com)

### Irvine Ranch Water District

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Visit us: [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com)



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View our YouTube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD](http://www.youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD)



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.

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