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Workshop

Ask Juan

pipelines

MARCH 2017 | NUMBER 3



Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

Save the Date

OC Master Gardeners Composting Workshops

Wednesday, March 29 or
Wednesday, April 26
3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

South Coast Research
and Extension Center
7601 Irvine Blvd., Irvine

Learn about traditional
composting and
vermicomposting (using
worms). Event will be held
outside in the composting
demonstration area. This
workshop is **limited to 20
participants**.

Plants for the Planet Workshop



PLANTS
FOR THE
PLANET

Thursday, April 13
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

IRWD, Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon
Avenue, Irvine

Select the right plants for
your landscape. We will
discuss California native and
non-native drought tolerant
species, seasonal water
needs, and cultural care tips
for these plants.

Sign-ups required:
rightscapenow.com/events

Learn How to Find and Fix Leaks for a Chance to Win \$500

As part of Fix A Leak Week, which runs March 20–26, IRWD is now offering its customers two ways to win Home Depot Gift Cards, one of which is worth \$500!

All participants must complete the IRWD Online Customer Training Portal for the chance to win a \$500 Home Depot gift card. Completing the training takes approximately 10–15 minutes and provides a great overview of how to identify and fix leaks around your home. The online training is located at rightscapenow.com/training-center.

For an additional chance to win one of five \$100 Home Depot gift cards, participants may submit one or more photos of themselves checking for leaks around their home. Visit irwd.com/fixaleak to learn more about the contest and to submit your photos.

The deadline to complete the online training and submit photos is March 31, 2017.

Fix a Leak Week is sponsored in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense® Program. For full contest details, visit irwd.com/fixaleak.



Submit a photo of yourself looking for or fixing a leak to be eligible to win one of five \$100 Home Depot gift cards.



Customer Training Center Portal

IRWD customers who complete water efficiency training at this online portal will have the opportunity to win a \$500 Home Depot gift card. Visit rightscapenow.com/training-center by March 31.

Time for Daylight Saving

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12, so remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night. The semi-annual time change coincides with seasonal climate shifts that signal it's time to adjust your irrigation controller. Let setting your clocks forward serve as a reminder to check and service old or weak batteries found in irrigation controllers and smoke detectors.



Easy Does It with “Turnkey” Turf Removal Program

The IRWD “Turnkey” Turf Removal Program builds upon our popular do-it-yourself Turf Removal Rebate program by offering residential customers the benefit of a full service program that takes the stress out of having to research, design and build a drought tolerant landscape project.

Residential customers can sit back and relax while IRWD’s drought tolerant landscape expert, WaterWise Consulting, Inc. (WWC), manages the project from start to finish. Customers first meet with WWC’s landscape design consultant to discuss their vision and goals for the project. Once the design is finalized, a dedicated project team will be assembled to remove existing grass, install new drought friendly plants and convert the existing irrigation system to drip irrigation.

Eligible residential customers can receive a rebate* up to \$2,000 per site for turf removed. Sites must have a minimum of 500 square feet of turf removed to qualify for the “Turnkey” Turf program. If your site has less than this, please consider participation in our Do-It-Yourself program at rightscapenow.com/turf-removal/diy-turf-removal.

Program participants are responsible for obtaining any required design approvals from their home owners association. For full program details, terms and conditions and to apply online, visit rightscapenow.com/turf-removal/turn-key-turf.

*Participation in rebate programs may be discoverable under the California Public Records Act.



Turf-free yard before replanting with drought friendly plants.



Same yard with newly established drought friendly plants.

There’s Still Room on the Bus

Our spring resident tours educate our customers about the recycled water process, the journey of drinking water, watershed stewardship and water efficiency. Tours begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Dates available are Friday, April 28 and Saturday, May 6. Register online at irwd.com/learning/tours.



Every resident tour includes a lively lunchtime water conservation discussion



Q: Juan, how should I water my backyard citrus trees?

A: Citrus have specific water and fertilizer requirements depending on variety, age of tree, size of canopy, and flowering and fruit development period. Citrus trees can require water year round, especially during late winter through spring. When citrus trees begin fruiting, their water requirements increase, but they do not like standing in water.

An average 10-foot by 10-foot canopy citrus tree will need about 100 to 150 gallons of water per week. The feeding roots of a citrus tree sit in the top two feet of soil, three to four feet out from the trunk all the way to the drip line. For good growth and fruit, proper fertilization is required. The generous application of mulch is also key to keeping the top 12 to 24 inches of soil beneath the tree canopy consistently moist, but not too wet.

For more details on how to water and care for citrus, avocado and stone fruit trees, visit UCCE Orange County Master Gardeners at mgorange.ucanr.edu/Edible_Plants/.

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