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# pipelines

NOVEMBER 2021 | NUMBER 11



Irvine Ranch Water District

## Save the date

### Tap Water 101

Online webinar

Wednesday, Nov. 17  
Noon – 1 p.m.

Meet IRWD's water quality experts and ask them questions. You'll learn about IRWD's testing procedures and find out how our water compares to state and federal standards.

### Garden Design Workshop

Online webinar

Wednesday, Dec. 1  
Noon – 1 p.m.

In this class, you will learn how to identify steps to designing a beautiful water-wise landscape.

**Sign-up required:**  
[RightScape.com/events](https://www.irwd.com/events)

### Missed a past webinar?

To access IRWD's archive of classes and tours, visit [RightScape.com/events](https://www.irwd.com/events) and click "Past Classes."

## Don't waste a good thing

With nearly 90% of the state in the grips of extreme drought, and Southern California now included in the state's drought emergency, it is critical that we all work together to ensure that California has the water it needs today and into the future.

Irvine Ranch Water District is in good shape—thanks to the ongoing care of our customers to save water, and to their support for the development of innovative water resources that make our community resilient against drought. But water reliability is precariously uncertain in other regions of the state.

Water is a precious resource that should always be used wisely. That's why we should all do our part to meet the governor's request for 15% voluntary reductions.

Our yards are the largest source of local water waste, and that's where even a few simple changes can have the biggest impact. Start decreasing watering times. Your plants may not need as much as you think. Visit [RightScape.com/watering-guide](https://www.irwd.com/watering-guide) for details.

Leaks can also waste a lot of water. Check for irrigation leaks monthly, looking for broken



Water-wise gardens can save up to 87 gallons each time you water.

sprinklers or pooling water near valves or irrigation lines. Visit [RightScape.com/how-do-i/how-do-i-fix-a-leak](https://www.irwd.com/rightscape.com/how-do-i/how-do-i-fix-a-leak) for helpful videos that show you how.

IRWD's [RightScape.com](https://www.irwd.com/rightscape.com) website offers resources to help you save water, including a list of our latest rebates to save you money.

Got questions? Senior Water Efficiency Specialist Juan Garcia offers advice in his ongoing column. Contact him at [AskJuan@IRWD.com](mailto:AskJuan@IRWD.com) for help.

## Ways to trim outdoor water waste



Get rid of your thirsty lawn and receive up to \$4 in rebates for every square foot of turf removed.



Replace sprinklers with rotating nozzles and pressure regulating spray bodies for up to \$4 each in rebates.



Change your spray head irrigation to drip and get up to 70 cents per foot of converted area.



Sign up for IRWD's WaterInsight portal to track your water use and check for leaks:  
[IRWD.WaterInsight.com](https://www.irwd.com/waterinsight.com)

# Kitchen tips for a happy holiday

Looking forward to preparing feasts of rich foods this holiday season? Remember that fats, oils and grease should never be poured down the drain. Collectively referred to as “FOG,” these substances are a leading cause of troublesome clogs and sewage spills.

Here’s how you can help prevent a stopped-up sink from spoiling your celebration:

- Pour used cooking oil and grease into a can, let it cool, and dispose of it in the trash.
- Wipe greasy pots with a paper towel before washing.
- Put all food scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, dairy products, pasta, rice and flour in the trash or compostable bin.

Remember, it’s not just your drain you’ll be saving! You will also be protecting your local sewer lines.



## Fall back for water efficiency

Daylight saving time ends this month, so remember to set your clock back one hour on Sunday, Nov. 7. The semi-annual time changes coincide with seasonal shifts in weather when irrigation controllers and sprinkler times should be adjusted. Water needs drop as the weather cools, so it’s a good idea to check your controller at the same time you change your clocks. This is a good time to replace the batteries in your controller, as well.



**Q:** During the fall and into winter, I noticed my landscape’s water use has gone up. What do you think it might be related to?

**A:** Sometimes we neglect to check our sprinkler system for leaks, and that can cause unforeseen problems. This is the perfect time to adjust your watering times and visually inspect your sprinklers for leaks, breaks and other issues that might cause water waste.

We have a sprinkler checkup list that you can refer to and, if you fix a leak, you can enter our sweepstakes at [IRWD.com](http://IRWD.com) for the chance to win a gift card.

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](http://RightScape.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan).

## California native corner Juan’s November plant: coyote mint

Coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*) is a perennial herb that forms a tangle of mint-scented foliage. It can be found in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and various forest/woodland habitats. It is fragrant and also attractive to butterflies. Learn more at [CalScape.org](http://CalScape.org) and [CalScape.org/planting-guide.php](http://CalScape.org/planting-guide.php). — Juan



**Q:** How does IRWD’s water budget work?

**A:** IRWD uses a budget-based rate structure to calculate your monthly bill based on the type of home, number of people living there, the landscape area, and weather.

Outdoor water budgets decrease in fall and winter when plants don’t need as much water.

Indoor water budgets are based on the number of people in the home, with defaults set at between two and four people.

Variations are available based on number of residents, medical needs and other circumstances. Visit [IRWD.com/variance](http://IRWD.com/variance). Learn more at [IRWD.com/rates-charges](http://IRWD.com/rates-charges).

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

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