

## Holiday closures

IRWD offices will be closed Dec. 24, 25 and 31, and Jan. 1. For online service, visit [IRWD.com](http://IRWD.com).



Toyon

## IRWD meeting rooms available for 2025 events

IRWD welcomes customers to use our Duck Club and Community Meeting Room for meetings and events, for free.

The 2025 calendar is now open for reservation requests, and a new booking system provides an easy online application process that allows customers to create a profile for future reservations, to track bookings, and join waitlists.

As always, certain limitations apply. For instance, customers or groups are allowed just one room reservation and timeslot per month; and timeslots cannot be split, expanded or combined.

Rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis for IRWD customers only.

Go to [IRWD.com/reservearoom](http://IRWD.com/reservearoom) for information and to book your spot for our Duck Club at the San Joaquin Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, or Community Meeting Room near IRWD headquarters.



## Holiday plants for your home and garden

*Celebrate the season with these festive plants. They do well indoors and out, and make wonderful gifts.*

**Dwarf citrus** and **fig trees** flourish in pots and in the ground. Limited in height, they produce normal-sized fruits, offering visual and culinary enjoyment yearlong.

**Christmas cactus** is an especially popular holiday plant — producing fuchsia-colored blooms in winter, when days are short and nights are cool.

**Spanish lavender** is a beautiful low-water shrub that looks great on a table or as cuttings in a vase. Plant it in the new year to start your own pollinator garden.

**Sage** is celebrated in many cultures as a symbol of hope and purity. Admired for its fragrance and flowers, it is another pollinator plant to add to your yard after the holidays.



Dwarf citrus



Christmas cactus



Spanish lavender



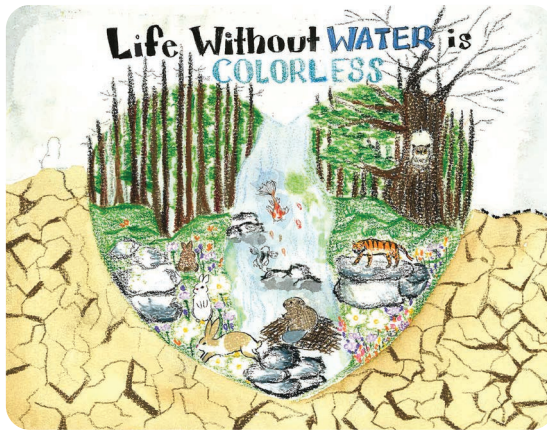
Sage

# Student's art chosen for calendar

Congratulations to **Caiyi Yan**, a Northwood Elementary sixth grader, who received top honors in Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's annual water awareness student art contest.

Her work was chosen from among more than 250 finalists submitted by water districts throughout the region to be featured in the 2025 "Water is Life" calendar.

Go to [IRWD.com/postercontest](https://www.irwd.com/postercontest) for more information.



**Q:** What's the rule about grease and drains? We'll be cooking a lot this month.

**A:** Fats, oils and grease can lead to clogs. That includes gravy, rich sauces, melted butter, salad dressings, and other high-fat foods.

Food scraps can also clog pipes, even with a garbage disposal. These food particles can create costly problems for sewer systems because they must be filtered out and shipped to a landfill for disposal.

Follow these tips to keep your drains clog-free:

- Pour fats, oils and grease in a container, let them cool, and dispose of them in the trash.
- Wipe greasy pots with a paper towel before washing.
- Put all food scraps in your organics recycling bin or compost them.

## Ask Juan



**Q:** Hi Juan! We just installed pavers in our yard, with about 3 inches of soil between them. What low-growing groundcover can we plant to neatly fill in the spaces?

**A:** Pavers are often unappreciated for the architectural value they can add to a landscape — and the secret to that beauty can often be found between the lines.

As with all plants, some things to consider when selecting your groundcover are the overall theme of

your landscape, and the amount of water and sunlight available in the area you'll be planting.

Consider beach strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*), which is a California native ornamental strawberry with shiny green leaves and white creamy flowers. Another favorite is silver carpet (*Dymondia margaretae*), which forms a dense silvery-green mat over time.

There are also a variety of thymes to choose from, such as woolly thyme (*Thymus pseudolanuginosus*) with its furry gray-green leaves, and purple creeping thyme (*Thymus praecox*), which is spectacular when it blooms. Blue star creeper (*Isotoma fluviatilis*) is also a great choice as a filler. Its name comes from its tiny star-shaped flowers that flourish in the spring.

Go to [IRWD.com/landscape](https://www.irwd.com/landscape) for other plant selections and landscape ideas.

Got landscape questions? Email [AskJuan@IRWD.com](mailto:AskJuan@IRWD.com) or ask on Facebook, X or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/irwdcommunity).



Blue star creeper



**24-Hour customer service:** 949-453-5300

**Email:** [CustomerService@IRWD.com](mailto:CustomerService@IRWD.com)

**Address:** 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618

**Website:** [IRWD.com](https://www.irwd.com)

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