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MARCH 2025



Irvine Ranch  
Water District

Sticky monkey flower

## IRWD supports fire resilience and protection

Irvine Ranch Water District works closely with Orange County Fire Authority and other firefighting agencies to prepare for and respond to hazardous conditions before an emergency strikes.

**Water supply:** We continuously test and maintain our fire hydrants to keep them in good working order, and our open reservoirs are available as water sources for agencies fighting wildfires from airplanes and helicopters.

**Monitoring:** We track the weather forecast every day for heightened fire risks such as low relative humidity, strong winds, dry brush and more. When these conditions are projected, we top off water storage tanks, which use gravity to distribute water to nearby neighborhoods.

**Backup power:** Permanent generators at key facilities keep water pumping during power outages, and portable units can be moved to respond to situational needs.

**Communication:** IRWD is part of a regional emergency response team that meets and communicates regularly to ensure prompt and coordinated action before, during and after emergencies.

For more information, visit [IRWD.com/hydrants](http://IRWD.com/hydrants).



Firefighting helicopters draw water from an IRWD reservoir.

Save  
the date

### Fix a Leak Workshop

Saturday, March 15  
9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

IRWD's Water Efficiency team will show you how to find and fix leaks in your home and landscape.

Sign-up required:  
[IRWD.com/events](http://IRWD.com/events)

## Enter our Fix a Leak Sweepstakes

Don't flush your hard-earned money down the drain. Toilet leaks are a common and costly source of home water waste. Hunt down these leaks as part of IRWD's annual Fix a Leak Sweepstakes!

Take a photo of yourself checking toilets, faucets, pipes or sprinklers for leaks, and submit it online by March 31 to be eligible for a \$100 Home Depot gift card. The earlier you submit your photo, the more opportunities you have to win.

Daily winners will be selected during Fix a Leak Week, March 17–23, and a final drawing will be held at the end of the month.

Learn more and enter the sweepstakes at [IRWD.com/fixaleak](http://IRWD.com/fixaleak).

### Testing for toilet leaks

- 1 Get toilet dye tablets or food coloring drops. 
- 2 Drop dye into toilet tank. Wait 10 minutes. 
- 3 If color shows up in toilet bowl, fix your leak! 

# Free school programs for kids!

Local schools still have time to book free water education assemblies, workshops and field trips to our San Joaquin Marsh wildlife sanctuary, courtesy of IRWD.

In partnership with Discovery Cube Orange County, IRWD sponsors these programs to teach future customers the value of water. All programming is aligned with Next Generation Science Standards.



For more information, email [info@IRWD.com](mailto:info@IRWD.com) or ask your school to visit [discoverycube.org/orange-county/IRWD](http://discoverycube.org/orange-county/IRWD) to book an event before the end of the school year.

## Ask Juan



**Q:** Juan, I've heard that drip irrigation uses more water. Is that true?

**A:** Glad you asked. No. Drip systems use significantly less water because they apply water directly to the root zone so no water is wasted. Be sure, though, to follow the right irrigation schedule for your system. Overhead sprinklers apply water in gallons per minute; drip systems in gallons per hour. Do you have point source drip

emitters or inline tubing? Find out the recommended schedule for each system at [IRWD.com/wateringguide](http://IRWD.com/wateringguide) or create your own customized schedule at [IRWD.com/calculator](http://IRWD.com/calculator).

### California native corner

#### Juan's March plant: Narrow leaf milkweed

Bring back the monarchs! Narrow leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) is a native milkweed species essential to the survival of this threatened migratory butterfly. Blooming with clusters of lavender or pinkish-white flowers from summer to fall, it's also a beautiful addition to any pollinator garden. Sow seeds in late fall to prepare them for spring germination, or contact your local nursery to see if they carry native (not tropical) milkweed plants in spring.



## Ask Customer Service

**Q:** Do you have information on your website explaining how to check for leaks?

**A:** We do! Go to [IRWD.com/checkforleaks](http://IRWD.com/checkforleaks) for a library of helpful videos showing how to check for leaks inside your home, in your irrigation system, and in your pool.

This library also helps you keep outdoor water waste under control with videos that explain how to:

- Set your irrigation controller
- Set up an efficient landscape
- Install an efficient sprinkler system and landscape

Customers who check for leaks can enter our annual Fix a Leak Sweepstakes through March 31 at [IRWD.com/fixaleak](http://IRWD.com/fixaleak). If you find a leak and fix it, contact us when you get your bill and ask for a billing adjustment.

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