Nifty 50 Plants for water smart Landscapes

Plus 10 Water-Saving Tips for your Garden

Enhance your garden with WaterSmart plants that exemplify the San Diego region at its best!

These Nifty 50 plants have been selected because they are attractive, often available in nurseries, non-invasive, easy to maintain, long-term performers, scaled for residential landscapes and, once established, drought-tolerant. In fact, these plants thrive in San Diego's semi-arid climate and can help restore regional authenticity to your home.

What's exciting is that authentic also means sustainable. Plants native to Mediterranean climate zones love it here as much as you do. They adapted over thousands of years, and the animal species that depend on them for food and habitat adapted, too. In fact, there are thousands of ground covers, grasses, succulents, perennials, shrubs, vines and trees to choose from.

For more information, go to **WaterSmartSD.org.**

Water Like a Pro

10 essential steps to saving water in the garden you have or in the new one you design.

1. Check Your Water Pressure

If pressure is too high, a pressure regulator should be installed; if low, options may include drip irrigation or low-flow sprinkler nozzles. High water pressure – over 70 psi – can cause sprinklers to fog, reducing the amount of water that is applied to your garden. Low water pressure – under 30 psi – can reduce a sprinkler's distance, leaving unwatered areas.

2. Inspect Your System

Once a month, manually cycle through each irrigation zone. Check, adjust, or replace sprinkler heads and drip emitters that are missing, blocked, broken, or watering hardscape.

3. Use a Landscape Watering Calculator

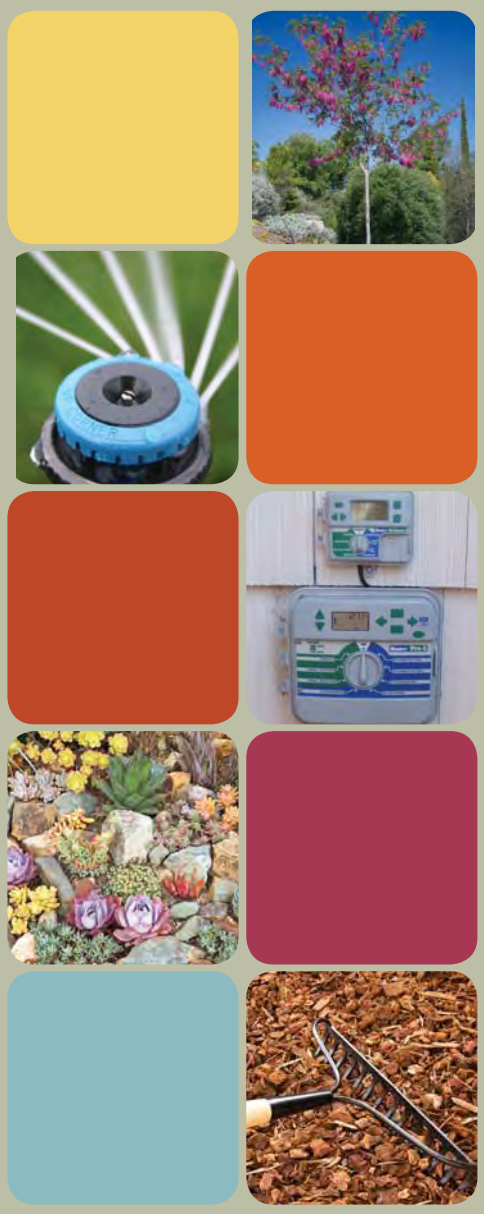
Use the city of San Diego's Landscape Watering Calculator **http://apps.sandiego.gov/landcalc/** to produce a watering schedule. The calculator is based on historical weather data for your zip code, along with the water requirements of the plants, the soil, and the sprinkler type in each of your irrigation zones. It's free, easy to use, and works for any location in San Diego County.

4. Hydrozone Properly

Have one water-use level per irrigation zone. Water-efficient plants react to overwatering and underwatering the same way – they lose their foliage and produce fewer flowers until all you see are branches. To avoid this, limit the plants within each irrigation zone to one water-use level.

5. Use One Type of Sprinkler Per Zone

In each of your irrigation zones, the plants should have the same water use level and the sprinklers should have the same application and efficiency rates.



6. Take Care of Your Trees

Water trees less frequently but for longer periods than shrubs and perennials. Give your trees their own irrigation zone, use drip irrigation and water each tree at the dripline – the outside edge of the tree's canopy. As the tree grows, move irrigation outward to stay at the dripline.

7. Baby Your New Plants

New plants need extra water during their first 12 months in your garden, which is called the establishment period. Water daily for two weeks after planting to mimic the watering routine in most nurseries. Maintain the establishment period watering schedule through your new garden's first summer.

8. Water at Sunrise or Sunset

Soil absorbs the most water from irrigation when the temperature, evaporation rate and wind are lower.

9. Don't Water When it Rains

Connect a rain sensor to a standard irrigation controller. Watering will stop automatically when the sensor detects rainfall. The system will stay off until the sensor dries out.

10. Replenish Your Mulch

Maintaining a three-inch layer of mulch protects soil from direct sunlight and evaporation. It also absorbs water, reducing runoff and providing more moisture for your soil.

For more information, go to WaterSmartSD.org and check out our eGuide to a WaterSmart Lifestyle, landscape classes, irrigation rebates, other programs and incentives.

Nifty 50 Photo credits by number: GardensSoft 5, 9, 14, 16, 33, 35, 37 (far left), 48; David Yetz 13, 15, 18; Don Schultz 41, 43; Janet Rademacher 37 (middle); Susan Frommer 37 (far right). Step 2 Ewing; 8 Hunter

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water smart LANDSCAPE

San Diego County Water Authority

These plants have been selected because they are attractive, often available in retail nurseries, non-invasive, easy to maintain, long-term performers, scaled for residential landscapes, and of course, once established — drought tolerant. In some cases, there are so many excellent WaterSmart plants in a particular group, like salvias, that we chose the group, and gave several examples.

and N = Native Plant

Shrubs

1 Manzanita

Arctostaphylos species & hybrids, N

2 California Lilac

Ceanothus species and hybrids, N

3 Western Redbud

Cercis occidentalis, N

4 Geraldton Wax flower

Chamelaucium uncinatum

5 Rockrose

Cistus species

6 Grevillea

Grevillea species and hybrids

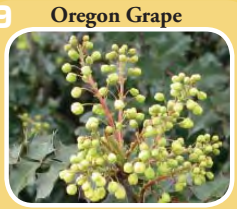
7 Toyon

Heteromeles arbutifolia, N

8 Texas Ranger

Leucophyllum species

9 Oregon Grape



Mahonia aquifolium, N

10 Dwarf Myrtle

Myrtus communis 'Compacta'

11 Rosemary

Rosmarinus officinalis

12 Coast Rosemary

Westringia fruticosa

Succulents

13 Aeonium

Aeonium species

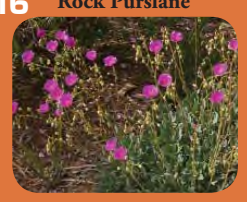
14 Agave

Agave species and hybrids

15 Aloe

Aloe species and hybrids

16 Rock Purslane

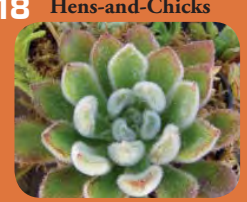


Calandrinia grandiflora

17 Live Forever

Dudleya species and hybrids, N

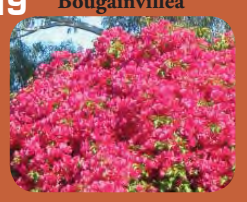
18 Hens-and-Chicks



Echeveria species and hybrids

Vines

19 Bougainvillea



Bougainvillea

20 Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

21 Japanese Wisteria

Wisteria floribunda

Groundcover

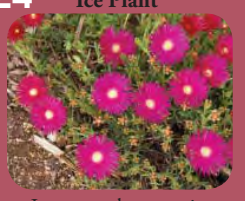
22 Carmel Creeper

Ceanothus griseus horizontalis species and hybrids, N

23 Silver Carpet

Dymondia margaretae

24 Ice Plant



Lampranthus species

25 Trailing Lantana

Lantana montevidensis

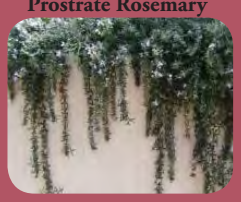
26

ROSEMARY

Huntington Carpet Rosemary

Rosmarinus officinalis 'Huntington Carpet'

Prostrate Rosemary



Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostrata'

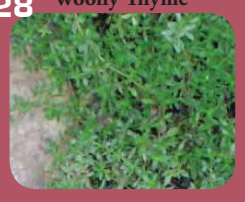
Lockwood de Forest

Rosmarinus officinalis 'Lockwood de Forest'

27 Stonecrop

Sedum species and hybrids

28 Woolly Thyme



Thymus pseudolanuginosus

Grass*

29 New Zealand Cabbage

Cordyline australis

30 Pink Muhly Grass

Muhlenbergia capillaris

31 Elijah Blue Fescue

Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue'

32 New Zealand Flax

Phormium tenax and some species and hybrids

Perennials

33 Kangaroo Paw

Anigozanthos species and hybrids

34 California Sunflower

Encelia californica, N

35 Trailing African Daisy

Osteospermum fruticosum

36 Monkey Flower

Mimulus, Native species and hybrids

37

PENSTEMON, Native species

Foothill Penstemon

Penstemon heterophyllus, N

Parry's Beardtongue

Penstemon parryi, N

Showy Penstemon

Penstemon spectabilis, N

38

SALVIA SPECIES

Dune Sage

Salvia Africana lutea

Germander Sage

Salvia chamaedryoides

Cleveland Sage

Salvia clevelandii, N

Mexican Bush Sage

Salvia leucantha

Autumn Sage

Salvia greggii

39

LAVANDULA SPECIES

French Lavender

Lavandula dentata

Spanish Lavender

Lavandula stoechas

40 Peruvian Verbena

Verbena peruviana

Trees

41 Strawberry Tree

Arbutus 'Marina'

42 Pindo Palm

Butia capitata

43 Chitalpa

Chitalpa tashkentensis, N

44 Australian Willow

Geijera parviflora

45 Crape Myrtle

Lagerstroemia indica

46 Sweet Bay

Laurus nobilis

47 Fruitless Olive

Olea europaea 'Swan Hill'

48 Desert Museum Palo Verde

Parkinsonia (Cercidium) x 'Desert Museum'

49 Chinese Pistache

Pistacia chinensis

50 Coast Live Oak

Quercus agrifolia, N

*Includes Ornamental Grasses & Grass-like Plants

San Diego County Water Authority

and its 24 member agencies

water smart LANDSCAPE

WaterSmartSD.org

Many of the plants in this guide are labeled and on display at the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas and the Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon. These gardens are excellent places to get ideas for a new or retrofitted landscape that looks beautiful and saves water.

San Diego BOTANIC GARDEN

sdbgarden.org

THE garden

thegarden.org

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