

*Going Green with  
San Bernardino County*

## California Friendly Landscaping Update September 08



**Water Usage/Grass update #2**  
 Water usage for the month of September is:  
 36210 gals/ Grass & Planters  
 The **RTF** is watered 9.8 mins/night.  
**SuperiorPlus** is watered 10.4 mins/night.  
**Marathon I** is watered 10.5 mins/night.  
**Bonsai & Marathon III** are watered 11.8 mins/night.

Turf	Water Hrs/Month	Water Gals/Month
RTF	4.92	4543
Superior	5.2	4789.4
Marathon I	5.25	4835.6
Bonsai	5.9	5482.4
Marathon III	5.9	5482.4

## Around the Facilities Garden

### Turf Update

All the grass plots are looking good at this time we fertilized around the middle of the month using a fertilizer with an NPK of 14-14-14.

The **RTF** turf, has again used less water than the other grass plots during the month of September; **RTF** is the middle plot of the three plots along Lena Road

This month we are trying out new sprinkler nozzles to water the grass plots. We replaced the standard nozzles with a new U-series nozzle, this new nozzle gives a more uniform water distribution, which in turn conserves water, saves money and reduces waste.



### Plant Update

We are seeing successes and failures around the garden this month: some of the failures are with the **Heuchera (Coral bells and Alum Root)**. There could be a number of reasons for them failing, too hot, too much water, not enough water, time of year we planted them. My personal belief is that it is too hot for them at the moment, and they need filtered sunlight during the hottest part of the day. We have planted some trees close to the **Heuchera**, once these trees mature we will try again.

The plant from the garden featured this month is the **Mimulus aurantiacus** or **Monkey Flower**, we are having a mix of success and failure with this plant. This lovely brightly colored plant is thriving in some areas of the garden, but not in other areas, we are still investigating why this is so.

Despite the failure of a few plants, the garden is filled with many thriving and flowering plants. A couple to look out for are the **butterfly bushes** they have some gorgeous flowers on them, also one of the **Texas Sage** varieties has some lovely purple/pink flowers right now.

## Anatomy of a Water-Efficient System

### Six Key Technologies to Conserve Water

1. Controllers based on Weather & Evapotranspiration	2. Flow Sensing and Leak Detection	3. Pressure Regulation
4. High-Efficiency Nozzles	5. Low Volume and Direct to Root	6. Durability / Low Maintenance to Perform as Specified

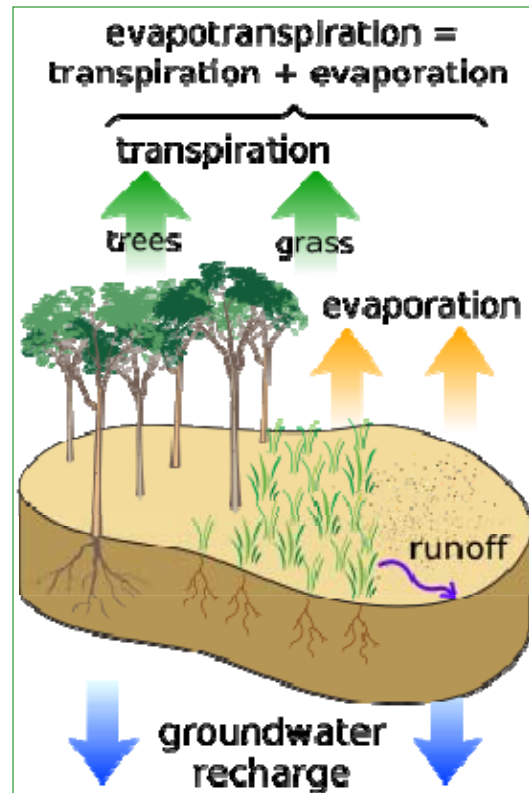
1. Controllers or central control systems that replace manual operation with 100% weather-based or ET- based scheduling

#### ET-Based Scheduling

##### What is Evapotranspiration (ET)?

- ET is the inches of water lost to the plant's use through daily evaporation and transpiration
- Effective rainfall (rain that is accepted by the soil) can be subtracted from the ET to calculate the irrigation ET
- Irrigation ET is used to calculate the minutes of sprinkler run time required to return the soil moisture level back to desired levels — no more, no less

Continued next month.



Picture from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evapotranspiration>

# Plant from the Garden

## Mimulus Aurantiacus

### Monkey Flower



Mimulus aurantiacus. Sticky or Shrubby Monkey Flower.  
Native to southern Oregon, California, Baja California. They grow to 4 1/2 ft. tall and wide, with narrow, 1 1/2-in long, sticky dark green leaves. Buff-toned orange, 1 3/4-in long flowers that bloom over a long spring and summer season. (info from sunset Western Garden Book)

Requires: Full sun or partial shade. Little water  
Sunset zones: 5 and 6 (with protection), 7-9, 14-24.

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