

*Going Green with
San Bernardino County*

California Friendly Landscaping Update October 08



Water Usage/Grass update #4

Water usage for the month of October is:

26227 gals/ Grass & Planters

The **RTF** is watered 8 mins every other night.

SuperiorPlus is watered 8 mins every other night.

Marathon I is watered 8 mins every other night.

Bonsai & Marathon III are watered 10 mins every other night.

Turf	Water Hrs/Month	Water Gals/Month
RTF	3.3	3080
Superior	3.3	3080
Marathon I	3.3	3080
Bonsai	4.2	3850
Marathon III	4.2	3850

Around the Facilities Garden

Turf Update

The **RTF**, **Marathon I** and **SuperiorPlus** turf have used the same amount of water this month. The **Bonsai** and **Marathon III** are using just a little extra water.

The new U-type nozzles we installed last month to water the turf are working well, we are getting better coverage and seeing less overspray on to the surrounding pathways.



Water saving tip # 1

With the cooler weather coming as we approach Fall and Winter, now is the time to check your home irrigation. Your home landscaping does not require as much water than it did during the summer months. The easiest way to do this if your irrigation timer has a water budget/seasonal adjust feature (most timers have this feature), you can decrease the water output by decreasing the percentage. We recently reduced all County Building Landscape irrigation timers down to 70%. You can also skip watering days, for example my home irrigation in Victorville, waters 4 days per week, with the grass receiving 6 mins and the landscape 5 mins each time. When you do turn down your irrigation be sure to monitor all areas of your landscape, and adjust irrigation times to suit your gardens environment.

Water saving tip # 2

Water wastage is a big problem, we see it everywhere we look, big culprits are the commercial sites and residential homes where broken and incorrectly adjusted sprinklers are watering everything except the landscape it is supposed to water (sidewalks, parking lots, cars etc.). During cooler weather non-adjusted timers produces water run-off goes down the street into the storm drains.

The County adjusts and maintains the irrigation systems at its facilities to work efficiently, if any broken sprinklers or run-off is observed at any of our County Facilities, please contact the Grounds Division at (909) 387-2255, and we will rectify the problem.

Anatomy of a Water-Efficient System. Continued from last month

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. cont'd. Rain Sensors

Rain Shut-Off Devices

A rain sensor or rain switch is a switching device actuated by rainfall. It is connected to an automatic irrigation system that causes the system to shut down in the event of rainfall.

Rain sensors for irrigation systems are available in both wireless and hard-wired versions, most employing hygroscopic disks that swell in the presence of rain and shrink back down again as they dry out - an electrical switch is in turn depressed or released by the hygroscopic disk stack.

- Automatically shuts off the controller when it's raining.
- Adjustable rain fall settings from 1/8" to 3/4" (some adjust up to 1"), this means that a light shower will not interrupt the irrigation cycle.

Continued next month



Rain sensor example 1. Rain Bird RSD Series Rain Sensor.



Rain sensor example 2. Hunter Mini-Clik II/520

Plant from the Garden

Buddleja davidii
Butterfly Bush



Buddleja davidii: Butterfly Bush / Summer Lilac.

Native to China and Japan, they grow 3, 4 or even 10 ft tall and wide. Tapering leaves are 4-12 in long, dark green above, white and felted beneath. In mid-summer branch ends are adorned with small, fragrant flowers (lilac with orange eye). Cut back heavily before spring growth begins. May die back in freezing weather but will regrow from roots. (info from sunset Western Garden Book)

Requires: Full sun or light shade. Moderate to regular water

Sunset zones: 52-24; H1



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