

*Going Green with
San Bernardino County*

California Friendly Landscaping Update November 08



Water Usage/Grass update #5

Water usage for the month of November is:

13377.7 gals/ Grass & Planters

The **RTF** watered twice a week when necessary.

SuperiorPlus watered twice a week when necessary.

Marathon I watered twice a week when necessary.

Bonsai & Marathon III watered twice a week when necessary.

Turf	Water Hrs/Month	Water Gals/Month
RTF	1.6	1478.4
Superior	1.6	1478.4
Marathon I	1.6	1478.4
Bonsai	1.66	1540
Marathon III	1.66	1540

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.

We have used very little water this month, thanks to the rain and by diligently monitoring the site, and keeping the irrigation systems off for as long as possible



Educate your Grass

Lawns do not need to be watered everyday, they can be “educated” to not depend on a daily supply of water, the following paragraphs taken from the Western Garden Book may help:

To encourage deep rooting and conserve water, irrigate lawns as deeply and infrequently as possible. In mild climates, once or twice a week should be adequate during warm weather; in hotter regions, you’ll probably have to water more often. Check with local water agencies for guidelines, which are often based on evapotranspiration (ET)- a localized, weather based measurement of how much water a plant uses and how much evaporates from the soil. To determine how thirsty the lawn really is, you can perform a few informal tests. First, just step on the grass. If the blades don’t spring back from your footprint, it’s time to water. Or push a screwdriver into the soil; if it doesn’t penetrate easily, the lawn probably needs water. A soil sampling tube gives a more accurate measurement.

For more information on “ET” refer to the County of San Bernardino, September 08, on-line publication.

Soil sampling

To determine how dry or moist the soil is, invest in a soil-sampling tube to “read” your soil. Push the tube into the ground and twist it back out, extracting a 12–inch or longer core showing in cross section how wet or dry the soil is.



Picture from sunset.com

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

2. Flow sensors / Leak detection

Flow Sensors / Leak detection

It's important to use a master valve when irrigating slopes. Strategically locate the master valve to reduce the length of constantly pressurized mainline around the slope, and before the zone valves. A normally closed master valve will supply a mainline with water only when a cycle is initiated from the controller. This equipment will reduce the time that a damaged sprinkler, a broken pipe, or a defective valve will have to wash away the landscape.

Flow sensing equipment can detect excessively high flows when a problem occurs. If calibrated properly, the flow sensing equipment will work in conjunction with the master valve to shut the system down and eliminate significant damage during an excess flow condition.

Leak Prevention

A check valve will prevent the water that remains in the pipe from draining out of the sprinklers after the valve has shut off—thus reducing the chance of erosion of the landscape areas around or on the slope. Look for sprinklers that have built-in check valves. This eliminates the need for a separately installed check valve under each sprinkler.

3. Cont'd next month.



Hunter INST-04-CV - 4" Pop-up



1800 SAM Spray Head
4, 6, or 12" Spray head with built in Seal-A-Matic™ check valve that prevents low head drainage, ideal for use in changing elevations.

Plant from the Garden

Sisyrinchium idahoense bellum
Blue-eyed Grass



S. idahoense bellum: Blue-eyed Grass.

Native to coast of California and Oregon. They grow 4 in– 2 ft high and 6 in– 2 ft wide. Green or bluish green leaves. Purple to bluish purple, 1/2in flowers. (info from sunset Western Garden Book)

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

Sunset zones: 4-9, 14-24

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