

*Going Green with  
San Bernardino County*

## California Friendly Landscaping Update May 09



### Water Usage/Grass update #11

Water usage for the month of May is:

30294.6 gals/ Grass & Planters

The **RTF** 3 times weekly.

**SuperiorPlus** 3 times weekly.

**Marathon I** 3 times weekly.

**Bonsai & Marathon III** 3 times weekly.

Turf	Water Hrs/Month	Water Gals/Month
RTF	2.42	2233
Superior	3.85	3203
Marathon I	3.46	3227
Bonsai	4.33	4004
Marathon III	4.33	4004



# Around the Facilities Garden

## Turf Update

The turf is still being watered three times per week:

- RTF 14 mins each time (two start times 7 mins each time)
- Marathon I and Superior 16 mins each time (two start times 8 mins each time)
- Bonsai and Marathon III 20 mins each time (two start times 10 mins each time)



## Grasscycling

The Grounds Division at Facilities Management has been practicing Grasscycling for about 2 years.

### What is Grasscycling?

This is the natural recycling of grass by leaving clippings on the lawn when mowing. Grass clippings decompose quickly and release valuable nutrients back into the soil. Grasscycling is simple, easy and it works.

### Why Grasscycle?

Because landfill space is valuable. Up to fifteen percent of materials deposited in landfills are yard waste, and one third of that is grass clippings. By recycling grass clippings we can extend the life of landfills.

### Proper Mowing Heights : (in inches) for various types of grasses

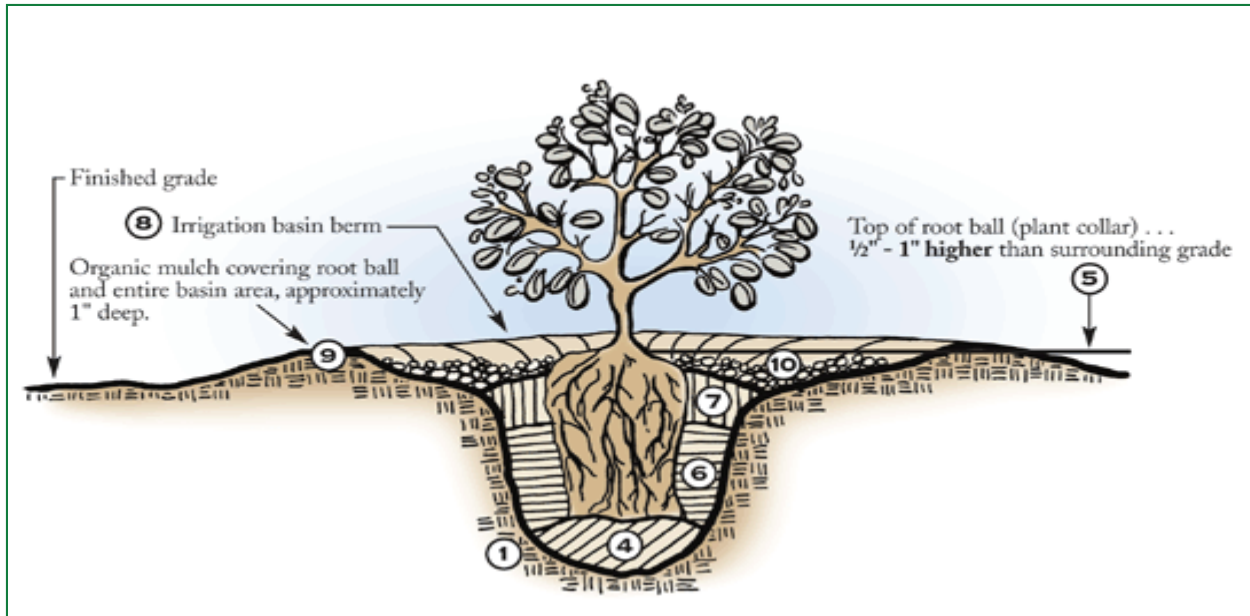
Grass Type:	Mower Setting:	Mow when grass is:
<b>Bentgrass</b>	1/2 - 1	3/4 - 1 1/2
<b>Bermuda grass (common)</b>	1 - 1 1/2	1 1/2 - 2 1/4
<b>Bermuda grass (hybrid)</b>	1/2 - 1	3/4 - 1 1/2
<b>Kentucky Bluegrass</b>	1 1/2 - 2 1/2	2 1/4 - 3 3/4
<b>Kikuyu grass</b>	1 - 1 1/2	1 1/2 - 2 1/4
<b>Perennial Ryegrass</b>	1 1/2 - 2 1/2	2 1/4 - 3 3/4
<b>Tall Fescue</b>	1 1/2 - 3	2 1/4 - 4 1/2
<b>St Augustine</b>	1 - 2	1 1/2 - 3
<b>Zoysia</b>	1/2 - 1 1/2	3/4 - 2 1/4

Grasscycling eliminates raking, bagging and dumping grass clippings, saves time and money and is environmentally friendly.

## Planting Technique

### Instructions for Planting and Care

Your native plants are in top condition and ready to plant. Like all nursery stock, these plants when brought into the landscape, need careful attention during their establishment period



### Ten Easy Steps for Success

1. Dig hole twice as deep and twice as wide as plant container. Break up large clods and try to avoid the smooth-sided "bathtub" effect in the hole.
2. Amendment
  - a) For many landscape and revegetation jobs, no soil amendment is recommended for native plants. The native soil should be soft and friable. Eliminate large rocks and clods from your backfill soil.
  - b) For landscape soils requiring amendment, use approximately 1/3 composted or nitrified forest humus to 2/3 native soil, blending them in a pile outside the hole. This is your backfill mix.
  - c) Slow release fertilizer granules or tabs may be incorporated with the backfill, or placed in the bottom of the hole. If tabs are used, make sure they are not touching the root ball. Most native plants are able to find nutrients even in poor soils. If a pre-plant fertilizer is used, application rates should be lower than those used for general landscape ornamentals.
3. Fill planting hole with water and allow to percolate (drain) into subsoil.

4. Spill some backfill material into the bottom of hole, moisten, tamp and mound slightly.
5. Set plant root ball atop the moistened backfill so that plant collar is **1" higher** than finished grade.
6. With water flowing slowly from a hose into the hole, replace backfill material up to about 2/3 the height of the root ball; moistening, tamping and settling all around.
7. Fill remaining portion surrounding the top of root ball with more backfill. Be sure collar is still higher than grade.
8. Create an irrigation basin berm, considerably outside the dimension of the hole using remaining backfill and native soil.
9. Apply a generous portion (approx. 2-4" deep) coarse, organic weed and disease-free mulch; topdressing around exposed collar and inside the entire basin area.
10. Irrigate thoroughly, filling the basin with water and sprinkling around to settle backfill, mulch and berm. Allow to soak in and repeat.

# Plant from the Garden

*Vitex agnus-castus*

Chaste Tree



*Vitex agnus-castus*, Chaste Tree. Deciduous shrub or small tree, grows fast to 25 feet tall and wide. Typically with multiple trunks; train high to make a good small shade tree. Aromatic leaves are divided fanwise into five to seven narrow, 2-6 in long leaflets, grayish green above, gray beneath. Blooms summer to fall with small, fragrant lavender-blue flowers held in 6-12 in spikes at branch ends and in leaf joints.

Requires: Full Sun, moderate to regular water

Sunset zones: 4-24, H1, H2

Information from Sunset Western Garden Book.

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