



CHECK MOISTURE BEFORE RAMPING UP LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

With the recent dry weather and warmer temperatures, Sacramento area residents might be tempted to ramp up their landscape irrigation. But, the Regional Water Authority and the Rancho Murieta Community Services District (District) are recommending restraint.

“Plants don’t need as much water this time of year, even without rain,” said Linda Yager, Regional Water Efficiency Program Manager. Lower temperatures, shortened daylight hours and moisture from fog and rain all combine to reduce the water demands of a typical landscape. Edible gardens and fruit bearing trees have special water requirements, so please consult with a landscape professional or a Master Gardener for more information.

The Regional Water Authority and the District offer the following dry winter irrigation tips for the typical landscape:

- ✚ Before turning on your irrigation system, check the soil to see and feel if it is still moist by using a garden trowel or shovel to dig down about three (3) to six (6) inches. If the soil is dry several inches or more below the surface, water the landscape one (1) day per week.
- ✚ Apply the “soak and cycle” method, which means to water your landscape on that one (1) day and let the water soak into the soil for about an hour. Then use a trowel or shovel again to check the soil moisture. If the soil is moist to depth of three (3) inches or so, you have probably watered enough. If the soil is only moist down to a depth of one (1) inch or two (2), you may need to irrigate a little longer.
- ✚ Understand that if you have the type of lawn that is dormant in the winter, it will not likely need supplemental water.
- ✚ Once the rains begin, remember to turn the irrigation system off again.

“The variations in rainfall from year to year are a constant reminder for all of us to use only what we need,” Yager said. “Rain or shine, we should be good stewards of our water resources for the health of the Sacramento region, the state’s economy and to ensure it is available today and for future generations.”

For more information about free water use efficiencies and rebates, as well as conservation tips, visit the District’s website at www.RMCSD.com or visit the Be Water Smart website at www.bewatersmart.com.

About the Regional Water Authority: Regional Water Authority (RWA) is a joint powers authority representing 24 water providers and affiliates in the greater Sacramento area. Its primary mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability and quality of water resources.