



# WATER-WISE GARDENING GUIDE

SAVE WATER

SAVE MONEY

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFULLY



City of Ceres  
Water Conservation Program  
2220 Hackett Road  
Ceres, CA 95307

[www.ci.ceres.ca.us/172/Water-Conservation](http://www.ci.ceres.ca.us/172/Water-Conservation)



## READY TO GET WATER-WISE?

The City of Ceres is committed to partnering with our residents on water saving technology and water conservation goals to better utilize the produced water supply. Using water wisely will help us fill the needs of our residents, businesses, farms, and aquatic life. A great way to save water for the whole community is through water-wise landscaping at your own home or business!

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## AMEND SOIL AND MULCH

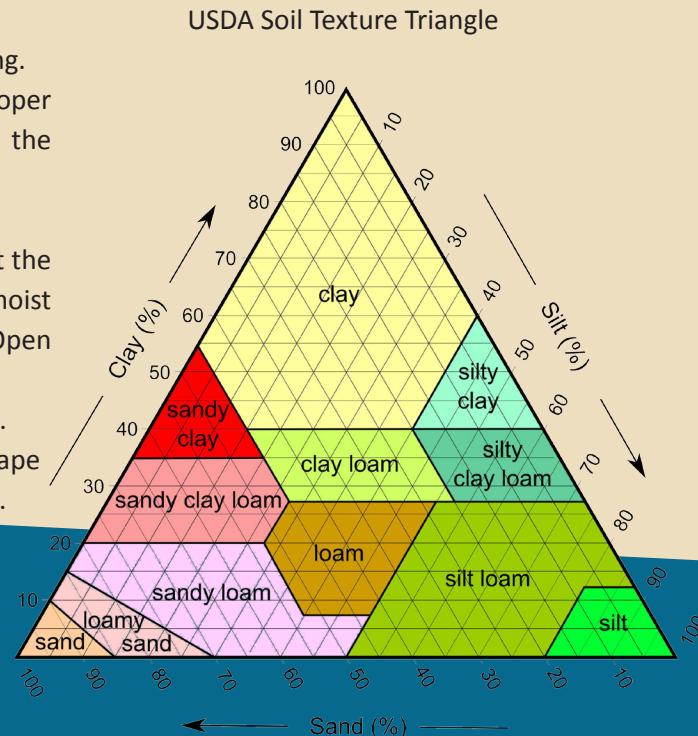
## 1. Identify Soil Type

- Healthy soil is required to retain water and to efficiently distribute water to your plants.
- Soil is different in every location. Test your soil before planting.
- Check with your local garden center for soil test kits and proper amendments. Analyze the pH levels, nutrient levels, and the sand/ silt/ clay/ organic matter content of your soil.
- Amend and aerate your soil prior to planting!
- **Identify Soil Type:** Knowing your soil type will help you select the best plants for your garden landscape. Take a handful of moist (not wet) soil from your garden and give it a firm squeeze. Open your hand and observe.
- **Loam Soil:** Holds shape, when given a light poke it crumbles.
- **Clay Soil:** Holds shape, when poked soil stubbornly holds shape
- **Sandy Soil:** Shape falls apart as soon as you open your hand.

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Contact the City of Ceres Water Conservation Program at:  
(209)538-5732

Or visit us on the City of Ceres Conservation Website at:  
<http://www.ci.ceres.ca.us/172/Water-Conservation>



## 2. Mulch

Maintain three inches of plant based mulch (not rock) on top of the soil in shrub areas to help retain water, inhibit weed growth, and moderate soil temperature.

How much mulch will you need? Bulk mulch is measured in cubic yards. You can calculate the volume of mulch you need by multiplying the area (in square feet) by the depth (fraction of foot, not inches), then dividing by 27.

$$(\text{Area Square Feet} \times \text{Depth in Feet}) \div 27 = \text{Cubic Yards of Mulch}$$

Example:  $(100 \text{ sq. ft.} \times .25 \text{ feet}) \div 27 = 675 \text{ cubic yards of mulch}$



Healthy soil and mulch reduces runoff and saves water.



Rock mulch can get too hot.



## DESIGN WATER-WISE IRRIGATION

### 1. Identify Irrigation Zones

An Irrigation Zone is a great way to organize your yard and your irrigation system.

An Irrigation Zone is an area of the landscape in which plants are grouped together by water needs. This makes programming your irrigation system easier. This saves you water and money by only watering each area as much as it needs. Here is an example of how you might divide your yard into Irrigation Zones:

- Zone 1: Lawn (requires the most water)
- Zone 2: Vegetable gardens, roses, and other thirsty plants and shrubs (requires medium water)
- Zone 3: Low-water plants and established shrubs (requires least water)

It is important to remember that all new plants – even plants advertised as “native” or “low-water” – need extra water the first year they are planted. Make sure new plants are receiving sufficient water to encourage the roots to reach deep so that they can make it through the next season with minimal watering.



#### DID YOU KNOW...

You can use **drip irrigation** in your **vegetable garden**! Arrange drip irrigation lines up and down your garden rows to water directly to the plants' roots.



## 2. Install Irrigation Equipment for Each Zone

**Zone 1:** High water use lawn can be irrigated with rotary spray nozzles or subsurface drip. Lawn areas that have different sun exposure should be separated and controlled by different valves. This allows you to use less water on a shady lawn and more water on your lawn in full sun. Be sure that spray heads are spaced per the nozzle radius and the arc is adjusted so that water does not spray concrete.

**Zone 2:** Medium water use shrubs should be watered with drip irrigation but on a separate valve from low water use shrubs.

**Zone 3:** Low water use shrubs should be irrigated with drip irrigation but on a separate valve from medium water use shrubs.

## 3. Install a Smart Controller

The City of Ceres has a Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate Program! Irrigation control technologies can significantly reduce over watering by applying water when plants need it. Replace a standard clock with a WaterSense labeled Smart Irrigation Controller. Send the Water Conservation program your completed application, your current water bill, and a copy of your receipt. The Water Conservation Program will verify your equipment installation and mail a check to you!



### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Contact the City of Ceres Water Conservation Program at:  
(209)538-5732

Or visit us on the City of Ceres Conservation Website at:  
<http://www.ci.ceres.ca.us/201/Resources>

## DESIGN WATER-WISE IRRIGATION

### 4. Irrigate at the Correct Time

Residential irrigation water can only run on specified days and times within the City of Ceres. No watering on Mondays, Thursdays, or Fridays. No watering any day from 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm.

House addresses ending in even numbers (0,2,4,6,8) water on Tuesday and Saturday.

House addresses ending in odd numbers (1,3,5,7,9) water on Sunday and Wednesday.

**Year-Round  
Watering Schedule**

City of **Ceres**

Water Conservation  
Program

To Report Water Wasters or  
Request A Waiver Please Call  
**(209) 538-5732**

[www.ci.ceres.ca.us/172/Water-Conservation](http://www.ci.ceres.ca.us/172/Water-Conservation)  
<http://meterportal.ci.ceres.ca.us/>

Addresses ending in an even number (0,2,4,6,8) may water on:	Addresses ending in an odd number (1,3,5,7,9) may water on:
Tues, Sat	Sun, Wed
No Watering on Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays	
No watering any day from 12:00 noon to 7:00 PM	



### 5. Maintain Irrigation System

Inspect your irrigation systems for proper system operation and component malfunctions monthly. Set and program automatic controllers for seasonal watering requirements. Adjust all sprinkler heads for direction and height for proper coverage and to prevent watering roadways and sidewalks. Unplug all clogged heads, flush lines free of rocks, mud and debris. Verify that your controller is watering deeply and slowly to establish moisture to the full depth of the root zone.

## 6. Be Prepared for a Drought

The City of Ceres has drought preparedness water rationing stages, per Resolution No. 2014-27, and will implement these stages when necessary. Be aware of what stage you are in!

**Stage 1:** All residents can water 3 days per week, based on odd and even addresses, from midnight to noon and from 7pm to midnight. No outdoor watering on Mondays. Use of a hose outside is permitted with the use of a shutoff nozzle. Waiver for new sod allowed.



**Stage 2:** Outdoor watering is limited to 2 days per week, Tuesday/Saturday for even addresses and Wednesday/Sunday for odd addresses. No outdoor water is permitted with the use of a hose or shutoff nozzle. Waiver for new sod will be permitted based on water conservation goal.

**Stage 3:** No outdoor watering is permitted at any time. Waiver for new sod will not be allowed.

Acts of wasting water may result in a fine. Wasting water includes watering outdoors between the hours of 12noon and 7pm, irrigation on the wrong day, watering while it is raining, or excessive watering causing water to leave the property. To report water wasters, call the Public Works Office at (209) 538-5732.

### WATER WAIVERS

The City of Ceres allows water waivers for the following reasons:

Health and Safety  
Irrigation  
Livelihood



## PERFORM WATER DISTRIBUTION UNIFORMITY TEST

Distribution Uniformity measures how evenly an irrigation system is covering an area, most often lawn. If a sprinkler system has 100% distribution uniformity (DU), that would mean that the same amount of water was falling evenly across every inch of the entire area, like a solid sheet spread out across the lawn. Lower DU indicates “holes” in that sheet, or areas of the lawn that get more water or less water or even no water coverage at all.

### **Step 1: Inspect**

Run, observe, and fix each irrigation zone. Look for and replace broken sprinkler heads, leaking valves, and broken pipes. Look for low water pressure. Analyze and adjust spray arcs and angles so water is only spraying on planting areas not on concrete. Spray heads should also be properly spaced to have head to head coverage.

### **Step 2: Test**

Place catch cans in sprinkler irrigated planting area at five foot spacing for smaller areas and ten foot spacing for larger areas. Use a minimum of 20 cans for each zone. Use catch cans manufactured for irrigation audits or any cup that will not tip over and are the same size, such as tuna cans. Run the irrigation zone for 5 to 10 minutes. Measure and record the depth in inches of water per can. Repeat this procedure for each individual zone. Use the same cans, spacing, and run time for each zone.

### **Step 3: Calculate**

Calculate the precipitation rate and the distribution uniformity of your irrigation zone. Use the tables and equations on pages 11 and 12.



It is good practice to aim for 80% distribution uniformity (DU) in a typical overhead irrigation setup. The lower the DU percentage, the more difficult it will be to water your lawn efficiently. An irrigation zone with  $\leq$  60% distribution uniformity should be adjusted.

Tips for adjusting a zone with a DU of  $\leq$ 60%:

1. Ensure all nozzles spray water to touch the spray head it is next to, so there are no dry areas. (Head to head coverage). Replace spray nozzles so that it will spray with the needed radius and arc. If needed, re-space spray heads.
2. Use uniform equipment. Use the same type of irrigation spray heads and nozzles from the same manufacturer within each irrigation zone. Precipitation rates, radii, and arcs vary between the different manufacturers and can greatly affect distribution uniformity.
3. Go to the source. Make sure your system has the required pressure needed to efficiently run your irrigation system.
4. Set Controller: Adjust irrigation run times using your precipitation rate: If your goal is to apply 0.5 inches in one irrigation cycle and the precipitation rate is 1.5 inches per hour, set the zone for 20 minutes.  $(\text{Inches to apply}) \div (\text{precipitation rate inches/hour}) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ hours}$

## PERFORM WATER DISTRIBUTION UNIFORMITY TEST

Irrigation Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Run Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Catch Can #	Depth of Water in Can (inches)
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	

Total Overall Depth = \_\_\_\_\_ inches

Total Overall Depth  $\div$  20 = \_\_\_\_\_ inches Overall Average Depth

**Calculate Precipitation Rate Per Hour:**

$(60 \text{ minutes} \div \text{Run Time minutes}) \times \text{Overall Average Depth} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{Inches Per Hour}$



Find five lowest can depths from table above (Lowest 25% of sample)

Catch Can # with lowest water depths	Depth of Water in Can (inches)
Total of Lowest Depths= _____ inches	

Total of Lowest Depths  $\div$  5 = \_\_\_\_\_ inches Lowest Average Depth

**Calculate Distribution Uniformity:**

Lowest Average Depth  $\div$  Overall Average Depth = \_\_\_\_\_ inches ( $\times 100$ ) = \_\_\_\_\_ % Distribution Uniformity (DU)

**Higher %DU = efficient watering = less water for desired results = save money on a water-wise lawn!**



## LAWN: MAINTAIN or REPLACE

### 1. Decide if you Need a Lawn

If you and your family don't use your lawn for physical activity or if you have areas (think about your front or side yards, lawn areas in dense shade, etc.) that are always struggling or not well-used, consider eliminating some of that lawn and adjusting your irrigation system to make an initial savings in water and irrigation cost. This is a great first step toward cutting costs and focusing your landscape water where it counts. Next, maintain the lawn that you keep or participate in The City of Ceres Turf Replacement Rebate Program!

### 2. Maintain the Lawn that You Keep

Consider changing your lawn species to a more drought tolerant variety. Mow once a week to 3 inches. Try to avoid damage to tree trunks, shrubs, and irrigation components. As needed, use slow release fertilizer to maintain optimum appearance compatible with the variety of lawn mix installed. Follow application methods, dates and scheduling provided by manufacturer. If the irrigation system does not adequately and evenly cover the turf areas, adjust nozzles and heads to achieve proper coverage. Control watering to prevent excessive run-off, ponding, and over-watering. Aeration should be done once per year to relieve soil compaction and increase soil air movement. Aeration should be done by using a device that removes cores.



### TURF REPLACEMENT ASSISTANCE

**Applying for Rebates:** For questions about rebate programs contact City of Ceres Water Conservation Program at (209)538-5732 or visit us on the City of Ceres Conservation Website at: <http://www.ci.ceres.ca.us/201/Resources>



### 3. Turf Replacement Rebate Program

The City of Ceres is offering rebates to customers who replace their thirsty lawns with water-efficient landscaping. The program is open to residential, commercial and municipal customers that are directly served by the City of Ceres service area. Restrictions apply, so be sure to read the Terms and Conditions for more information. By beautifying your landscape through the turf removal program, you will save water, energy, reduce your water bill and the time and money you spend maintaining the lawn.

#### **Turf Replacement Rebate Program Guidelines:**

- **Water Service Provider:** Must be directly from City of Ceres.
- **Inspections:** Rebates are subject to inspection by staff before and after project completion.
- **Minimum Project Size:** 100 square feet; a 10'x10' area.
- **Project Timeline:** (45) days to complete project once approved.
- **Availability:** Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Turf Replacement Rebate Amount:** \$1 per square foot, maximum \$500 per residential account, \$1,000 for all other accounts. Rebate amount may not exceed project budget.

#### **LIFE AFTER LAWN**

Replace the dull turf grass look and weekly mowing with any assortment of low water use plants to enhance your garden with color and seasonal interest.

#### **TRY SYNTHETIC TURF**

Synthetic turf is a great option if you want to keep the green look of a lawn without using any irrigation water!

## PLANT LOW WATER USE PLANTS

### 1. Select Plants

- First: Look for plants and seeds on-line or at your local nursery that are marked for Zone 9 or Zone 10. These are the numbered zones that have been mapped across the US by the government to help homeowners determine the type of plants that will grow best in different types of environments.
- Second: Look for plants that are labeled, “water wise” or “low water.” Typically, plants native to mediterranean climates have similar need for water and heat tolerance as our Central Valley native plants. Visit your local nursery for more information and availability.

Fact to Remember: Not all California native plants are low water use plants. Some California native plants found along rivers may require high amounts of water. Select California native plants that are low water use varieties.

### 2. Locate Plants

- First: Choose plants that are suitable for your planting area’s sun exposure. A plant with too much sun can require more water. Plants that are marked on the nursery tag as “full sun” can tolerate sun all day long. Plants marked as “Full Shade” should be planted in an area that has shade for the majority of the day.
- Second: More plants = more water. Try to use fewer plants to create your desired look. Plants that have a larger maturity size can be planted further apart and require less water per square foot of your planting area.

Fact to Remember: The South side is hot! Plants that are located on the South side of structures can require more water. Plants with more shade can use less water due to slower evaporation.

### 3. Fertilize Plants

- First: Minimize or eliminate the use of fertilizer where possible. Fertilizer encourages thirsty new growth causing your landscape to require additional water.
- Second: If you do need fertilizer, look for a product that contains “natural organic” or “slow-release” ingredients. These fertilizers feed plants slowly and evenly, helping to create healthier plants with strong root systems and no excessive “top growth”.

Fact to Remember: Using slow-release fertilizers can reduce nutrient run-off into ground and surface waters, protecting natural resources.

### 4. Maintain Plants

- First: Prune deciduous trees and shrubs during dormant season. Minor pruning may be performed at any time. Remove all dead or damaged branches. Remove suckers, water-sprouts, and other undesirable growth on trees. Prune circling roots to avoid long-term issues with tree health.
- Second: Control weeds with both pre and post-emergent herbicides. If weed remnants remain after chemical control, they should be removed by hand-pulling. Pesticide applications should be provided for the control of insects and diseases as needed and per the product instructions.

Fact to Remember: Healthy plants are water efficient plants!



### Create Your Plant List

Select from the list of beautiful low water using plants on pages 17-20

# PLANT LOW WATER USE PLANTS

## PLANT FEATURE SYMBOLS



Great for Hummingbirds



Great for Cooking



Sun or Part Sun



## TREES

	<b>STRAWBERRY TREE</b> <i>Arbutus 'Marina'</i> 	25'-40' tall, 25'-35' wide
	<b>WESTERN REDBUD</b> <i>Cercis occidentalis</i> 	10-18' tall and wide
	<b>DESERT WILLOW</b> <i>Chilopsis linearis</i> 	25' tall, 15' wide
	<b>CHITALPA</b> <i>Chitalpa tashkentensis</i> 	20'-30' tall and wide
	<b>AUSTRALIAN WILLOW</b> <i>Geijera parviflora</i> 	25'-35' tall, 20' wide
	<b>GOLDEN RAIN TREE</b> <i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> 	30' tall, 25' wide
	<b>CRAPE MYRTLE</b> <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> 	25' tall, 20' wide
	<b>SWEET BAY LAUREL</b> <i>Laurus nobilis</i> 	25' tall, 15' wide
	<b>TEA TREE</b> <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> 	20'-30' tall and wide
	<b>PACIFIC WAX MYRTLE</b> <i>Myrica californica</i> 	10'-30' tall, 20' wide
	<b>OLIVE TREE</b> <i>Olea europaea</i> 	25'-30' tall, 25' wide
	<b>AFGHAN PINE</b> <i>Pinus eldarica</i> 	30'-80' tall, 25' wide
	<b>CHINESE PISTACHE</b> <i>Pistacia chinensis</i> 	30'-60' tall, 40'-50' wide
	<b>CAROLINA LAUREL CHERRY</b> <i>Prunus caroliniana</i> 	20'-30' tall, 20' wide
	<b>COAST LIVE OAK</b> <i>Quercus agrifolia</i> 	30' tall, 30' wide
	<b>VALLEY OAK</b> <i>Quercus lobata</i> 	35' tall, 35' wide
	<b>CALIFORNIA PEPPER</b> <i>Schinus molle</i> 	25'-40' tall, 35' wide
	<b>CALIFORNIA BAY LAUREL</b> <i>Umbellularia californica</i> 	30' tall, 30' wide

## GROUNDCOVER

	<b>YARROW</b> <i>Achillea tomentosa</i> 	1-2' tall, 2' wide
	<b>RED APPLE</b> <i>Aptenia cordifolia</i> 	4" tall, 3-5' wide
	<b>DWARF COYOTE BUSH</b> <i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 	12"-24" tall, 6' wide
	<b>CREEPING COPROSMA</b> <i>Coprosma x kirkii</i> 	12"-30" tall, 4-6' wide
	<b>BEARBERRY COTONEASTER</b> <i>Cotoneaster dammeri</i> 	8-12" tall, 6-8' wide
	<b>SANTA BARBARA DAISY</b> <i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i> 	1' tall, 1' wide
	<b>CREEPING MYOPORUM</b> <i>Myoporum parvifolium</i> 	6-8" tall, 8' wide
	<b>TRAILING ROSEMARY</b> <i>Rosmarinus officinalis 'Huntington'</i> 	1' tall, 6' wide
	<b>GROUNDCOVER MANZANITA</b> <i>Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'</i> 	1' tall, 3-4' wide

## ORNAMENTAL GRASS

	<b>FEATHER REED GRASS</b> <i>Calamagrostis acutiflora</i> 	2-3' tall, 2-3' wide
	<b>BERKELEY SEDGE</b> <i>Carex divulsa</i> 	1.5' tall, 2' wide
	<b>TUFFED HAIRGRASS</b> <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> 	2'-4' tall, 3' wide
	<b>BLUE FLAX LILY</b> <i>Dianella caerulea</i> 	2' tall, 3' wide
	<b>COMMON BLUE FESCUE</b> <i>Festuca glauca</i> 	1' tall, 1' wide
	<b>ALTAS FESCUE</b> <i>Festuca mairei</i> 	2-3' tall, 2-3' wide
	<b>PINK MUHLY GRASS</b> <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> 	4' tall, 4' wide
	<b>DEER GRASS</b> <i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i> 	3' tall, 4' wide
	<b>DWARF FOUNTAIN GRASS</b> <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> 	1-2' tall, 1-2' wide



## PLANT LOW WATER USE PLANTS



### SHRUBS

	<b>JAPANESE BARBERRY</b> <i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	3-4' tall 3-4' wide
	<b>BUTTERFLY BUSH</b> <i>Buddleja davidii</i>	5'-15' tall and wide
	<b>BUSH ANEMONE</b> <i>Carpenteria californica</i>	4'-8' tall and wide
	<b>'YANKEE POINT' LILAC</b> <i>Ceanothus gloriosus</i>	4-6' tall, 4-6' wide
	<b>ORCHID ROCKROSE</b> <i>Cistus x purpureus</i>	3-4' tall, 3-4' wide
	<b>BUTTERFLY IRIS</b> <i>Diites bicolor</i>	3' tall, 3' wide
	<b>HOPSEED BUSH</b> <i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	15' tall, 10' wide
	<b>SHRUB DAISY</b> <i>Euryops pectinatus</i>	3' tall, 4' wide

	<b>FLANNEL BUSH</b> <i>Fremontodendron spp.</i>	15' tall, 12' wide
	<b>NOELL GREVILLEA</b> <i>Grevillea x 'Noell'</i>	4' tall, 4-5' wide
	<b>TOYON</b> <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	15' tall, 10' wide
	<b>RED HOT POKER</b> <i>Kniphofia uvaria</i>	3' tall, 2' wide
	<b>LAVENDER</b> <i>Lavandula</i>	Many sizes
	<b>BUSH MALLOW</b> <i>Lavatera maritima</i>	8' tall, 8' wide
	<b>JAPANESE PRIVET</b> <i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	8' tall, 4' wide
	<b>'LITTLE OLLIE' OLIVE</b> <i>Olea 'Little Ollie'</i>	4-6' tall, 4-6' wide

	<b>MYRTLE</b> <i>Myrtus communis</i>	6' tall, 5' wide
	<b>'GULF STREAM' NANDINA</b> <i>Nandina domestica</i>	3' tall, 2' wide
	<b>NEW ZEALAND FLAX</b> <i>Phormium tenax</i>	Many sizes
	<b>ROSEMARY</b> <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Many sizes
	<b>GERMANDER SAGE</b> <i>Salvia chamaedryoides</i>	2' tall, 3-4' wide
	<b>PERENNIAL SAGE</b> <i>Salvia microphylla</i>	3' tall, 3' wide
	<b>GERMANDER</b> <i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	4-6' tall, 4-6' wide
	<b>CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA</b> <i>Zauschneria californica</i>	3' tall, 4' wide

## SUCCULENTS

	<b>CENTURY PLANT</b> <i>Agave americana</i> (Many varieties)	Many sizes
	<b>ALOE</b> <i>Aloe</i> (Many varieties)	Many sizes
	<b>RED YUCCA</b> <i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>	3' tall, 3' wide
	<b>STONECROP</b> <i>Sedum 'Autumn Joy'</i>	1-2' tall, 2' wide
	<b>HEN AND CHICKS</b> <i>Sempervivum tectorum</i>	6"-1' tall, 2' wide



For helpful advice on drought tolerant landscaping, ideas and garden inspiration in California visit:

[www.watersmartgardening.com](http://www.watersmartgardening.com)



## CHECK OFF YOUR SEASONAL CHECKLISTS

### 1. Winter ✓

- Don't water if it is raining. Make sure your controller is turned off during rain events .
- Spot water manually or turn your controller on manually when weather changes from day to day.
- Use your weather based smart controller to do the work for you.
- Prune dormant trees and shrubs.
- Catch the rain and store it for the dry months.
- Turn off irrigation system at source.
- Cover exposed pipes and valves.

### 3. Summer ✓

- Water-wisely.
- Let your lawn get a little brown in the very hot and dry months. Trying to maintain a perfectly green lawn in the Summer can waste a lot of water.
- Mow lawn 3 inches or higher.
- Drip don't spray. Spray irrigation in the Summer can result in water waste through evaporation. Drip irrigation under the protection of mulch gets the water to the roots.
- Water on the correct day and the correct time.

### 2. Spring ✓

- Mulch.
- Inspect your irrigation system for leaks or broken pipes that may have been damaged during the cold months.
- Perform uniformity distribution test and make adjustments.
- Update your controller. Get your controller ready to be efficient during the summer. Consider a smart controller.
- Aerate and amend soil.
- Plant low water use shrubs. Remove high water use plants.
- Spring clean with a broom not a hose.
- Check spray heads and spray angles.

### 4. Fall ✓

- Maintain irrigation system. Adjust spray nozzles to not spray the side walk. Spraying into the gutter is water down the drain.
- Drip emitter check. Visit each drip emitter when the system is on to make sure it is not broken or missing.
- Mulch.
- Congratulate yourself on a full year of water-wise gardening.



## USE YOUR RESOURCES

### 1. City of Ceres Home Water Audits

Due to the severity of the recent drought, the City of Ceres has implemented water usage targets and a fine structure should your property go over your set target. This is one of several programs approved by council members to help the City meet state mandated reduction goals. For the Ceres Water Conservation Program to efficiently determine the water needs of our resident's property, we are offering free water audits. The current default for a family of four is as follows:

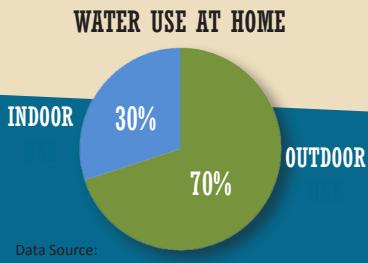
- 12,000 gallons a month for January and February.
- 22,000 gallons for the month of March.
- 27,000 gallons each month April - September.
- 22,000 gallons for the month of October.
- 12,000 gallons each month November - December.

If you have more than four members in your home, a large property, or have a pool on your property, please contact the Public Works Office at (209) 538-5732 to schedule an appointment.

**Fact to remember:** No Changes will be made to your usage targets without a completed water audit.

### 2. Water Consumption Calculator

<http://www.csgnetwork.com/waterusagecalc.html>





### 3. City of Ceres Water Meter Web Portal

The City of Ceres has developed a Water Meter Portal that will allow you as the customer to log in with your account number and a secure password to view your water usage data. The portal is updated daily, allowing you to monitor your own water usage and determine if you need to cut back on water consumption and where you can cut back. The portal will also generate a leak notification to your e-mail or send a text message if your meter reads 10 gallons or more per hour for 24 consecutive hours.

Usage reports are sent via email once a week on Sundays to inform residents of their month-to-date water consumption. Once you are logged into the Web Portal you will be able view your water usage on a yearly, monthly, weekly, daily, and even an hourly basis. Residents can also view usage targets while logged into the portal.

#### For questions please contact:

Public Works Office (209) 538-5732  
Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.  
<http://meterportal.ci.ceres.ca.us/>

City of Ceres  
Water Conservation Program  
2220 Hackett Road  
Ceres, CA 95307  
(209)538-5732



## CITY OF CERES TURF REPLACEMENT EXAMPLES





Prepared by:



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[www.ci.ceres.ca.us/172/water-conservation](http://www.ci.ceres.ca.us/172/water-conservation)

