



E-News

Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership Newsletter Fall | 2020



Fall is an Ideal Time to Spruce Up Your Landscape

Get a free assist from Mother Nature during the fall season in the following ways:

- The soil is still warm which encourages root growth so you have a healthier plant by spring.
- The rainy season is coming which cuts down on the amount of supplemental watering required to get your new plants up and going.
- Fewer pests are out and about giving your newly planted landscape a chance to build up its immunity before spring arrives.



- The cooler nights means less evaporation which cuts back on plant watering needs.

Before you head out to the nursery be sure to check out our [Landscape Design Templates](#) for inspiration and the [list of nurseries](#) that have Water Smart Plant Labels making your plant shopping a breeze.

Laundry-to-Landscape Graywater Workshop



**MARIN MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT**



**LAUNDRY-TO-LANDSCAPE
(L2L) GRAYWATER PROGRAM**

Marin Water is partnering with the Urban Farmer Store of Mill Valley to offer two free webinar workshops to learn about the design, installation, and maintenance of a residential laundry-to-landscape graywater system.

Laura Allen, a founding member of Greywater Action, will lead the workshops. Laura has spent the past 20 years exploring low-tech, urban, sustainable water solutions. She is the lead author of the "San Francisco Graywater Design Guidelines for Outdoor Irrigation", and authored *The Water-Wise Home: How to Conserve and Reuse Water in Your Home and Landscape* and *Greywater, Green Landscape*.

September 24, 2020 | Thursday | 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

October 22, 2020 | Thursday | 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

November 10, 2020 | Tuesday | 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

[Click here to register](#)

Upcoming and Past Educational Webinars Online



Daily Acts along with our partners have been busy educating the public on subjects ranging from fire smart landscaping, drip irrigation, graywater and more. There are several webinars coming up and the full recordings of past webinars are available for you to watch at your convenience.

[Click here to find out more](#)

Santa Rosa Offers a Greater Incentive to Replace Your Thirsty Turf

The City of Santa Rosa is now offering an increased rebate for the Cash for Grass program! For every square foot of lawn

converted to a low water use garden, receive a rebate of \$0.75, up to \$750 for single family homes.

For commercial customers, the rebate is up to \$7,500. Your new garden can use less water, be beautiful, provide habitat for butterflies and bees and reduce your house's vulnerability to fire.

Call 707-543-3985 to schedule a pre-inspection.



[Click here to find out more](#)

Give Your House a DIY Tune Up



Are you ready to take the next step towards water and energy conservation? We have the tools to make that happen. The Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Home Energy and Water Saving Toolkits include instructions and equipment to measure your home's energy and water efficiency, along with free upgrades like efficient lightbulbs and showerheads that you can install and keep to save money on utility

bills. The DIY Home Energy & Water Saving Toolkits are available for check out from the Sonoma County Library.

[Click here to learn more about the DIY toolkit](#)

Eco-Friendly Garden Tour Call for Gardens!

The 2021 Eco-Friendly Garden Tour will take place online and will include video tours, educational presentations and training workshops on the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership website. The tour will take place in May 2021.

Feeling inspired to show off your garden? Know someone who might be interested in participating?

We are currently looking for inspirational, low-water use gardens to be included on the 2021 tour.

Please [send an email](#) for further information or if you have any questions about participating.



[Check out this year's virtual tour here](#)

Wash More Dishes with Less Water



As many of us are spending more time at home and eating in more often than out, water use inside our homes has increased. With more dishes, coffee mugs, and flatware to clean, which method of doing the dishes is more efficient? Washing by hand or using the dishwasher?

The answer is just that little bit of good news we need right now – put them in the dishwasher. Newer EnergyStar rated dishwashers use just 3.5 gallons or less per load. That's equivalent to running your kitchen faucet for less than two minutes! (A kitchen faucet has a maximum flow rate of 1.8 to 2.5 gallons per minute depending on when it was purchased.) Older dishwashers use 4.5 to 5 gallons per load, so even older models have hand washing beat.

Here are some tips to save even more water:

- Scrape food scraps and residue off your dishes and into the compost bin instead of rinsing them off in the sink
- Only run the dishwasher with a full load
- Take the time to load the dishwasher neatly to fit more dishes in
- Hand wash bulky items like pots and serving bowls to make room for more dishes
- Select the shortest wash cycle that will get your dishes clean
- Start the load after 9 p.m. to avoid peak energy rates
- Choose the “no heat dry” setting for more energy savings
- If it's time for a new dishwasher, look for an EnergyStar labeled model

[Click here to find out more about EnergyStar dishwashers](#)



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www.savingwaterpartnership.org
