

## California-Friendly Landscape Workshops

Please join us for one of our FREE landscape workshops to learn the California-friendly way to a beautiful landscape that uses less water and keeps more money in your pocket.

### You'll learn:

- How to pick the right plants
- How to manage your sprinkler system for efficient irrigation
- The proper way to fertilize and maintain your water-wise garden.

**Saturday, March 6 & 27** 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
MNWD Operations Facility  
26161 Gordon Rd., Laguna Hills

**Wednesday, March 17 & 31** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
MNWD Headquarters  
25700 La Paz Rd., Laguna Niguel

### COST: Free

These workshops include refreshments. Space is limited and reservations fill quickly. For more information or to RSVP, please call (949) 831-2500.

## Making Conservation a Way of Life

### MNWD's Mandatory Conservation Rules

- Reduce water use by 20 percent
- Irrigation of lawns, landscapes and other vegetation is limited to three days per week (see watering schedule below)
- Watering is limited to a maximum of eight minutes per day, per station
- To reduce loss to evaporation, watering is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Excessive watering resulting in runoff is prohibited
- No hosing down hard or paved surfaces
- A bucket or hose with a shut-off nozzle must be used when washing vehicles



## Level 2 "Water Alert" Irrigation Schedule

### Residential

Aliso Viejo and Mission Viejo  
*Monday and Thursday, and Saturday or Sunday*

Dana Point, Laguna Hills and Laguna Niguel  
*Tuesday and Friday, and Saturday or Sunday*

### Commercial

*Monday, Wednesday, and Friday*

MNWD's Water Conservation Program prohibits watering between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Recycled water users are exempt from this schedule.

**Conserve Today: Save Water. Save Money. Protect the Environment.**

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*WaterLines* is a monthly publication to keep water users in the Moulton Niguel Water District informed about water related issues and events. Please send any comments or suggestions to MNWD, 27500 La Paz Road, Laguna Niguel, CA, 92677, or call us at (949) 831-2500. [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com).

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## Additional Conservation Needed to Meet 20 Percent Goal

**Efficient water use is critical to avoid district-wide penalties.**

In June 2009, Moulton Niguel Water District asked our customers to reduce their water use by 20 percent to ensure a reliable supply during this statewide water shortage. Since that request last year, our customers have only conserved 10.2 percent. That's a considerable savings, but with only four months remaining before financial penalties are to be assessed to the District for failing to reach this goal, more can and must be done.



*A tote board outside MNWD headquarters on La Paz Road alerts customers to current conservation levels.*

### Penalties Shared by All if Goal not Met

Each water district in Southern California was allocated a specific amount of water last spring by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to meet their needs for the coming 12 months. All water MNWD uses in excess of our allocation will be billed to the District at rates several times higher than normal, which could potentially mean several million dollars of extra costs. If the District as a whole uses 20 percent less water for the year we will remain within our allocation and be able

to avoid these penalties. But if we fail to meet the District's allocation, any penalties will be spread across all of our customers, so we all have incentive to use less water.

### There is Still Time to Conserve

MNWD customers took bold actions in late January to reduce water use during the planned shutdown of the Diemer Treatment Plant. We urge our customers to continue those behaviors, and to reduce water use to only what is absolutely necessary. By working together, we can see that there will be sufficient water to meet everyone's basic needs and avoid unnecessary and unwanted penalties.

For simple ways to use less water, call (949) 831-2500 or visit [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com)

## Water Conservation Update

Since July 1, MNWD customers have conserved

**10.2%**

compared to this time last year.

We are **required** to conserve

**20%**

*Are you doing all that you can?*

## Conservation Tip

Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks – the biggest waster of water around your home.

For more easy water-saving tips, visit [www.mnwd.com](http://www.mnwd.com) or call (949) 831-2500.

## How is Snowpack Measured and What Does it Mean?

**Sierra snow is a key indicator of future water resources.**

The majority of water that Southern California districts like MNWD receive from the northern part of our state comes from melting snow in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Several times each winter and spring, state officials measure the Sierra snowpack to predict the state's future water supply. The first measurement of 2010 found the snowpack's water content to be only 85 percent of normal. That isn't good news since up to 60 percent of the state's water comes from this source and it could mean we're going into our fourth year of drought. So how exactly do state officials measure the snowpack?

The Sierra snowpack is measured monthly from December to May at five locations across the Sierras by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). A hollow aluminum tube is plunged into the snow to measure depth. The snow inside the tube is then weighed to determine its water content, which is a key measurement for how much water will eventually flow into reservoirs as the weather begins to warm.

The DWR traditionally announces the results of the year's first survey in an idyllic snow-covered field at the doorstep of a privately owned cabin known as Phillips Station, near Lake Tahoe. The spot, at 6,800 feet, normally represents the median of the five locations where snowpack is measured. This year was no different, and if the snow levels continue to indicate another year of drought, that means customers must be even more attentive to conserving our precious water resources.



Photo courtesy of DWR.

*A lower-than-average Sierra snowpack could lead to a fourth consecutive year of drought conditions.*

## Saving Water Protects the Environment

**Over-watering outdoors wastes our precious resources and harms the environment.**

When customers waste water by over-irrigating their landscaping, or when they use a hose to clean driveways and cars, all the excess water runs down gutters, picking up pollutants like fertilizers, trash, motor oil and pesticides. This polluted runoff makes its way into storm drains and creeks, and eventually into the ocean, damaging local beaches, waterways and ecosystems.

By following MNWD's Mandatory Conservation Rules (see back page), you can help reduce runoff pollution, protect the environment and save large amounts of our valuable water resources.



*Over-irrigating your landscaping creates runoff, which picks up pollutants as it enters storm drains on its way to the ocean.*

## February's California-Friendly Plant of the Month:

### Sweet Pea



This Valentine's Day, give your garden a bouquet of lovely sweet pea flowers. The sweet pea can be found in both vine and bush forms and grows quickly with only a little attention. Plant it now, and in late spring or early summer it will produce beautiful butterfly-shaped flowers that vary in color from red and pink to deep blue, and also have a sweet aroma that will attract butterflies and birds.

Sweet peas love the sun and require little water. They like rich soil and appreciate mulch. Unlike other pea varieties, sweet peas are not edible, but they're a perfect match for your water-wise, California-Friendly garden.

#### Sweet pea

*Lathyrus odoratus*

Season:	Spring and summer
Size:	2-10 feet
Color:	Red, pink, rose, blue or white flowers
Water:	Little water, more frequent in summer
Sun:	Full sun

## Web Site Kids Zone Makes Water Learning Fun

Learning about water has never been so fun now that MNWD has launched our new Web site featuring an interactive education section designed specifically for kids of all ages. Created in part with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Kids Zone includes games, activities and exercises organized by age group, making it easy for children to learn wise water habits they can use for years to come.



- Crosswords
- Word searches
- Science projects
- Arts & crafts
- Trivia
- Music & poetry

Visit the new [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com) today!