

Happy New Year from MNWD

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# WaterLines

January 2012

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

## Efficiency Made Easy

Moulton Niguel Water District now makes it easier than ever for our customers to use water efficiently with the launch of our new rebate program. Being efficient is right for the environment, right for your wallet and it helps ensure that there is enough water available to meet the current and future needs of our region.

### Toilets

Replace your old toilet with a new efficient model and receive up to \$150 per toilet, on a maximum of five toilets. Many older models use up to seven gallons per flush. High-efficiency toilets use less than 1.5 gallons and can save thousands of gallons of water per year.



*MNWD customers can receive hundreds of dollars off the purchase of new high-efficiency products through the District's rebate program.*

### Washing Machines

Receive a rebate of \$200 for the purchase of a new efficient washing machine, and save even more as you use less water each year. Customers may be eligible for an additional rebate of \$85 through the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

### Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers

Install a weather-based irrigation controller to manage watering times for your lawn and garden, and you'll receive \$25 per station, up to \$600. Plus, weather-based irrigation controllers are the easiest way to help ensure you stay within your monthly water budget.

Receiving a rebate is simple. First, visit [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com) to see the list of approved products. Then make a purchase at the retailer of your choice, fill out a rebate application located on the District's website, attach the original receipt or invoice, and we will mail you a rebate check. Plus, you may be eligible for additional rebates through the Municipal Water District of Orange County. **MNWD rebates will be retroactive for qualified products purchased after July 1, 2011.**

MNWD is committed to helping all of our customers use water efficiently. If you have questions about the rebate programs or other ways to save water and money, please visit [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com) or contact us at (949) 831-2500.

## Water Efficiency Update

Last month

# 82%

of MNWD customers remained within their water budgets.

*Are you using more than you need?*

## Water Conservation Tip of the Month

**Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is closely clipped.**

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



# Winter Watering

## Are You Overwatering Your Plants this Season?

Winter is in full swing, and that means it's time to adjust the way we use water. Most plants go dormant in fall and winter and require far less water than in spring and summer when they are active. So even as warm weather continues, now is the time to save water and money by reducing your irrigation.

The fall and winter months are when Southern Californians typically waste the most water. That is because plants require roughly 70 percent less water during this period, but many mistake the pleasant weather as a call to continue their summertime watering schedules. Overwatering is common in the fall and winter not just because of the warm weather, but also because many plants will look wilted or brown as they enter their dormancy. But beware, dormant plants should not be overwatered.

**Most plants, including your lawn, only need four to six minutes of watering one to two days per week this time of year.**

## Have You Exceeded Your Water Budget?

### MNWD is here to help!

Follow these steps if your water use has exceeded your water budget:

- ✔ **Request a Home Savings Survey**  
Call or click to schedule an appointment for the MNWD Conservation Team to visit your home and review your watering practices.
- ✔ **Take Advantage of Rebates**  
You can receive hundreds of dollars in rebates by purchasing water-efficient products. See this month's cover story or visit [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com) to learn more.
- ✔ **Look for Leaks**  
Leaks are the most common source of wasted water. Check your toilets and sprinkler systems to make sure they are working properly.
- ✔ **Water to Meet the Needs of Your Plants**  
Most plants, including your lawn, require far less water than the average homeowner typically gives them. Lawns only need four to six minutes of watering one to two days per week this time of year.

For additional ways to use water efficiently and remain within your water budget, please visit [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com) or call us at (949) 831-2500.

## MNWD Helping HOAs Become Water Wise

Healthy community landscaping plays a key role in property values and neighborhood pride. It's also a major draw on our region's water resources and a significant component to most community associations' budgets. That is why MNWD is working with local community associations and their landscape professionals to promote the value of efficient irrigation and ensure they are making the best use of their water and money.



The District is hosting an Efficiency Workshop this month to help these large customers learn about tips and programs to keep their landscaping green without overwatering, which can potentially save thousands of dollars each year in unnecessary water costs. Similar workshops are being planned for residential customers as well. By working together, we can see that all MNWD customers meet their water budgets, receive the lowest possible bills and help maximize all of our limited water resources.

## California-Friendly Plant of the Month:

### *Rock Purslane*



*Calandrinia spectabilis*, also known as Rock Purslane, is a regular favorite among California-Friendly gardeners, and now is the perfect time to add it to your yard. This plant forms a small shrub of soft gray-green leaves that serve as the canvas to stunning magenta flowers that bloom all year round in the mild Southern California climate.

*Calandrinia* thrives in heat, withstands drought and tolerates poor soil. Water this plant deeply twice a month spring through fall, then only once a month or less during the winter months. Pruning out the dead flower stalks will promote repeat blooms and an attractive compact shape. *Calandrinia* can be planted any time of the year, but winter and spring are best, so make a point to add it to your New Year's resolutions.

### **Rock Purslane** *Calandrinia spectabilis*

Season:	Year round
Size:	Up to 3 ft. tall, 5 ft. wide
Color:	Green-gray shrub, magenta flowers
Water:	Low
Sun:	Full



# Let Mother Nature Work for You

**Turn off your sprinklers  
when it rains.**

The easiest way to save water this winter season is to turn off your sprinklers when it rains. Even a brief soaking by Mother Nature means you can keep your irrigation system off for up to seven days following each storm. It's free, easy and a great way to stretch our water resources.

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For meeting dates and agendas, visit [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com). *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).

## Request a **FREE** Home Savings Survey

**Saving water and money is easy,  
and MNWD is here to help.**

### **MNWD's conservation team is available to:**

- ✓ Visit your home
- ✓ Review your outdoor watering practices
- ✓ Discuss your indoor use
- ✓ Recommend easy ways to save water and money by becoming more efficient.

Home Savings Surveys are free and only take about 30 minutes to complete. Just visit [www.MNWD.com](http://www.MNWD.com) to sign up and we'll contact you to schedule an appointment.



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