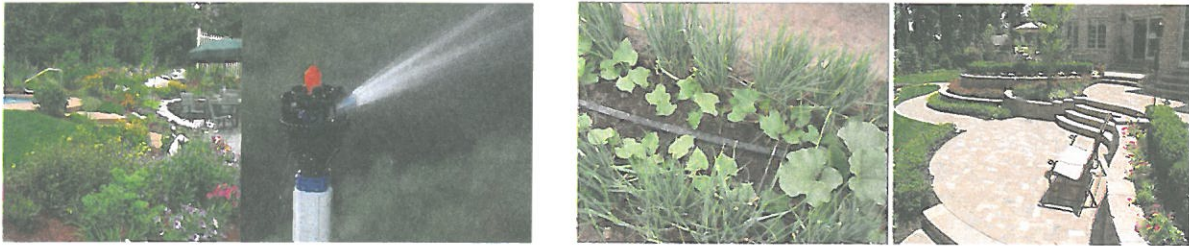


Save Water, Save Money, While Enjoying Less Yard Work! Smart Gardening Class



The class is **FREE** and will be held at:

The San Benito County Water District, 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister
(near the corner of Fairview/Santa Ana).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD - 9:00 am to 1 pm

This class is designed for homeowners who are interested in creating water efficient landscapes. Participants will get a basic understanding of the following:

- Garden design concepts
- Drought tolerant plants
- Irrigation basics
- Irrigation scheduling, troubleshooting and maintenance

**For more information or to register
for the classes call or email:**

Shawn Novack,
Water Conservation Program Manager
Water Resources Association San Benito County
(831) 637-4378
snovack@sbcwd.com

***Classes are limited to 35 residents**

The Water Resources Association is a locally-based agency focused on water resource management in San Benito County. Representing the City of Hollister, City of San Juan Bautista, Sunnyslope County Water District and the San Benito County Water District.



Residential Landscapes

Over 50% of residential water is used for landscape purposes. Of this amount, another 50% is wasted due to improper irrigation scheduling and leaky or unmaintained irrigation systems.

Let the WRASBC assist you in using this resource efficiently. Call the WRASBC for a FREE Home Water Survey. A technician will visit your home and provide you with recommendations and a suggested watering schedule all for **FREE!** In addition, the technician will check your entire house for leaks, install new showerheads, faucet aerators and provide you with a high-quality hose nozzle with an automatic shut-off.

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Read your irrigation controller (timer) manual to understand its features. Learn how to adjust the controller and change the setting when plants need less water. Replace lost manuals— many can be downloaded from the manufacturer's website. You will need the model number of the controller.

Change the controller battery at least once a year to preserve the schedule in case of a power failure. A power failure may cause the controller to revert to the default setting which will probably not water the correct amount.

Adjust the sprinklers so that they don't spray pavement, fences, and buildings. Install a rain shut-off device. Check for leaks, sprinkler head misalignments, broken pipes, and other system problems at least twice a month. If your automatic irrigation system normally runs at night or when you are unable to observe the system's operation, run the system manually for a short time during daytime. Always repair with correct parts.

Observe for signs of irrigation system problems such as dry spots, ponding, erosion, and soggy spots. These indicate the system may need adjustment. Water trees and shrubs less frequently than lawns, deep soak occasionally to promote deep rooting. Check soil moisture below surface with a soil probe or large screwdriver. Don't assume the plants need water just because the soil surface looks dry. Water only during night and early mornings to minimize evaporation and don't water when windy or raining. Water shady areas less frequently and use a hose that shuts off automatically.

Prune only to rejuvenate and restore the health of the plant. If you must prune heavily to keep a plant small, consider replacing it with a plant that will mature at a smaller size.

Add compost to improve soil and spread mulch over garden beds to slow evaporation and reduce weeds. Clean filters in sprinkler heads and drip systems regularly.

Use sprinkler heads with matched precipitation rates; don't mix types of sprinklers on one line.

WATERING

Keep a written record of last year's watering schedule near the controller unit and use it to base this year's schedule. If you think the landscape needs less water than it received last year, shorten the run times, or lengthen the time interval (days) between run times.

Adjust irrigation controllers with the seasons. For example, start out in spring with about 50% of the water that will be used in summer. Be sure to turn the controller down in fall and off (if possible) in winter. Use the water budget or seasonal adjust feature (%) on the controller to make adjusting easier.

Use low output sprinklers such as drip, soaker hoses, and microspray whenever possible.

Use "cycle and soak" or multiple run times on the sprinkler controller.

Dividing the total watering time into shorter increments allows water to soak in. **Set a goal of no runoff.**

RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPES

Design new landscapes with natives or ornamental plants from a similar climate. Consider renewing existing landscapes with water wise plants.

Replace "space-filler" lawns with rock gardens, mulched areas, or ground covers. Reduce lawn area to the size your family actually uses.

Use lower water-use grass types such as Hybrid Bermuda, St. Augustine grass and Dwarf Tall Fescues on new and rehabilitated lawns.

