HOW TO GARDEN IN A drought

California is in a drought and that means that we need to be careful with every drop of water that we use, particularly outdoors. Here’s a guide to how to help your landscape survive the drought.

GET EFFICIENT

- introduce drip irrigation
- invest in a smart controller
- water less frequently, but longer and close to plant roots
- redirect downspouts to capture rainwater and direct it to garden areas

PRIORITIZE YOUR LANDSCAPE

1. VEGETABLES & FRUITS GET PRIORITY
   They help feed your family.

2. WATER-WISE PLANTS & SHADE TREES
   Water-wise plants use little or no water once established. Shade trees help keep plants cool and less thirsty.

3. THIRSTY PLANTS – LAWN, HIGH-WATER-USE & CONTAINER PLANTS
   These plants are the lowest on the priority list. If you have to cut back, start here.

USE MULCH

- RETAIN MOISTURE
  Less watering needed and grow healthier plants.

- MODERATES TEMPERATURE
  Cool soil in the summer and warm soil in the winter.

- DECOMPOSES NUTRIENTS
  Enrich soil and better soil quality.

- DISCOURAGE WEEDS
  Keep weeds away and reduce maintenance.

CAN I PLANT?

Check with your local water agency and if you can water at least two times a week, you can plant water-wise plants and shade trees. This is not the time to install new lawn or thirsty, non-California friendly plants.

RECYCLE INDOOR WATER OUTDOORS!

Recycle water you are using indoors by capturing what otherwise might go down the drain and use it on plants.

- put a bucket in your shower
- use cooled cooking water
- wash your fruits & veggies over a bucket
- keep a pitcher next to the sink and empty water glasses in it

For more tips on reducing water use, visit saveourH2O.org!