

## Spring Tips For Outdoor Landscaping

Mark your calendar, the first day of spring is just around the corner on Friday, March 20. In many parts of California, the seasonal change serves as a reminder that warmer, drier conditions are on the way.

Golden State Water reminds customers that California remains in a drought, and water supplies in the state are critically low during this fourth consecutive dry year. It's important that we use water wisely, especially outside of the home, resisting the temptation to overwater lawns and gardens.

With the drought in mind, we would like to share the following watering tips to help customers maximize their water-use efficiency this spring:

### Upgrade Your Garden:

Replacing your existing garden with water-wise landscaping can save water, money and time. The below illustration highlights four attractive, California-friendly plants to help you plan your new garden.



### Spring Into Action:

The beginning of spring is a great time to survey your outdoor irrigation system to set timers properly and fix any sprinklers, valves and lines that may be damaged or leaking water. Check to make sure sprinklers are positioned to irrigate your landscape and not your sidewalk, driveway or gutters. Finally, review all [state](#) and local watering restrictions to avoid costly violations.

### Water Smarter, Not More:

The state's water use historically skyrockets during the spring and summer months, as Californians re-start outdoor watering activities that account for 50 to 80 percent of some regions' residential usage. Follow these simple watering guidelines to improve your outdoor water-use efficiency AND maintain your home's curb appeal.

1. Don't overwater your lawn and garden. Limit irrigation to no more than three times per week (check local watering restrictions), which is more than adequate for lawns in even the hottest weather.
2. Water for 2-3 minutes, wait 45 minutes, then water again for 2-3 minutes. This schedule will prevent runoff and water lost through the soil.
3. Water before 8 am or after 7 pm, when temperatures are cooler.
4. Add mulch around trees and plants to limit evaporation and regulate soil temperature.
5. Upgrade to a weather-based smart controller to manage your automatic sprinkler system (rebates available).
6. Install a drip irrigation system for your garden, shrubs and trees.

Click [here](#) for additional information about California's drought, as well as water-use efficiency programs and rebates available in your area.