

Manager's Column

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### Perfect time to Plant!

*The mission of the Nipomo Community Services District is to provide its customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.*

Have you seen the District's 'new' look driving around town lately? This is just one way we are stressing that water conservation measures – and real money savings! – start with your outdoor landscape. Choosing less thirsty, drought tolerant plants, can help you save significant amounts of water, and money!



Changes to your landscape and shutting down your irrigation system this winter can help you double your water savings.

Winter is the perfect time to plant along the Central Coast. Mild temperatures make the digging easy and help new plants to establish. Rainfall helps to minimize the water needs of new plantings.

If planted in the early winter, most drought tolerant and native plants will need supplemental water for just one summer. The following year's winter rains will help the plants become firmly established and infrequent watering, at most, will be all that is needed from then on.

Without spending any money, many home owners could significantly reduce the amount of water used in their landscape. Over watering of landscapes is surprisingly common and the well-drained soils in our area often hide the results. By spending some time getting familiar with your landscape and irrigation system, you could reduce watering and save money, while maintaining the appearance of your current landscape.

I was talking with a water-conscious customer and she asked; "How many times a week should I be watering my established drought tolerant native plants." My answer was; "Zero for the next five months

and next summer water them (give them a good soak) once a month – maybe twice if weather is very warm and dry.”

More than ever, now is the time to consider reducing the water demands of your landscape – either by changes in your watering patterns or landscape type, or both. There is a great deal of information on the District’s website and other local and online sources regarding water use efficiency and converting to low water use landscapes. If you need some help getting started, call the District and our staff will help point you in a water conserving direction.

We hope you and your loved ones are enjoying this holiday season. Until next time,

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