

Manager's Column

Adobe Press; Inside the NCS D

December 27, 2013 Issue

Tis the Season – to Save Water

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.

Tis always the season to save water. Double your water savings this winter by shutting down your irrigation system and making changes to your landscape that will save water and money next summer.

Winter is the perfect time to plant along the Central Coast. Mild temperatures make the digging easier and make it easier for new plants to establish. Rainfall (please let's have some 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 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-conscientious customer last week 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."

I spoke to another customer who was concerned District water was damaging their lawn because they were watering every day, yet the lawn was not the vibrant green they had last summer. I explained that many grass types go dormant or semi-dormant in the winter. This results in a more yellow-tone of green and slow to no growth. This also means lawns need little to no water this time of year and can be mowed less frequently as well!

Our area continues to experience an extended drought. District well levels and well levels across the Mesa are near historic lows. 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.

Until next time...

Michael S. LeBrun, General Manager, info@ncsd.ca.gov