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pipelines

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Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

Save the Date

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, Oct. 28
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Irvine Police Department
1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine

Kaiser Permanente Irvine
Medical Center
6640 Alton Parkway, Irvine

Don't flush your medicine down the toilet! Turn in unused or expired medication during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Sharps and needles are not accepted.

To learn more, visit deaddiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/.

Time to Plant Workshop

Wednesday, Nov. 8
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

IRWD Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.,
Irvine

Planting season has begun. In this workshop, learn how to select appropriate plants and learn proper landscape cultural practices. Receive tips for planting and landscape care.

Sign-ups required:
rightscapenow.com/events

Keep Your Water Safe in a Storm

Floods. Wildfires. Earthquakes. They've been in the news lately—and Orange County is not immune. IRWD has multiple safeguards to protect the reliability and quality of your drinking water. But in extreme circumstances, it's smart to be ready for disruptions.

The first 72 hours are critical, so prepare to be self-sufficient at least that long. Here are three ways to be sure water isn't a worry:



Containers like these can be used to bottle and store tap water for up to six months as an emergency supply.

- 1 Store it.** Maintain several gallons per person, stored in clean, non-corrosive, tightly covered containers. Commercially bottled water is one option. Heavy, opaque plastic containers with screw-on lids are best if you bottle your own. Label it clearly and replenish it every six months.
- 2 Boil it.** After a disaster, tap water may be tainted. Boil it for at least five minutes before drinking. If boiling isn't possible, strain water through paper towels, coffee filters or layers of clean cloth to remove sediment. Treat water with household chlorine bleach—eight drops per gallon of clear water, or 16 drops if water is cloudy.
- 3 Find it.** Sources of drinkable water are hidden throughout your home. Melt the ice cubes in your freezer. Drink the liquid from canned fruits and vegetables. Save the water from your water heater. (Cut the power to your water heater, close the supply valve at the top, let the tank cool, turn on any hot water tap in your house to let air flow into your tank, then open the faucet at the bottom of the tank to drain water into a clean container.) You can even drink the water in your toilet tank (not the bowl!), unless cleaning chemicals have been added.

Stay Alert with IRWD



Sign up now for CodeRED, IRWD's high-speed notification system. Receive voice, email or text alerts in a water emergency. Visit irwd.com and click on "Emergency & CodeRED."



For local alerts—and happier news from IRWD—join nextdoor.com, a social network for you and your neighbors.

Composting Basics

Part 1: Know the Materials

To retain soil moisture while discouraging weeds, Irvine Ranch Water District encourages generous use of mulch to cover garden and bedding soils. Did you know that adding compost as a low-cost, natural, non-chemical soil amendment also helps preserve moisture while nourishing your plants?

Compost is the biologically active material that results from decomposition of organic material under controlled conditions. Composting—the process of cultivating and harvesting compost—uses the following organic materials:

- **Greens** include grass clippings, yard trimmings, green leaves, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, and horse, cow, chicken or rabbit manure. Greens contain nitrogen, which aids breakdown of organic matter.
- **Browns** include dried leaves, woody plant material, chopped/ground twigs and branches, straw, hay, sawdust, and shredded newspaper or cardboard. Browns contain carbon, which increases surface area and eases decomposition.
- **Water** creates a favorable environment for microorganisms that break down organic material. A compost pile should be kept as moist as a wrung-out sponge.
- **Air** provides the environment necessary for microorganisms to live and multiply. Turning the compost inhibits odor-causing bacteria and speeds creation of the finished product — a nutrient-rich soil amendment, ready to be harvested and worked into the soil.

Do not use meat, fish, poultry, bones, dairy products, grease, lard, weed seeds, Bermuda grass, nutsedge, dog or cat manure, charcoal or Duraflame ashes, or treated wood products.

NEXT MONTH: Composting Basics – Part 2: Methods and Harvesting



Q: Juan, I am thinking about replacing my lawn with something more water thrifty—something low growing, fast spreading and easy to maintain. Any recommendations?

A: This is the perfect time to start planning, because removing your old lawn properly takes time. Numerous groundcovers are available, such as *Dymondia margaretae*, also known as silver carpet. I'm

particularly excited about *Phyla nodiflora*, also known as kurapia. It's an innovative groundcover that spreads fast and doesn't require a lot of water or maintenance. It's also kid and pet friendly. **Before** removing your lawn, please remember we have two turf rebate programs: the Turnkey turf program, which is all-in-one, and the DIY program. Visit rightscapenow.com/turf-removal to learn more.



See how kurapia can change your yard, from start to finish.

To ask Juan a question or to see his answers to past questions, visit rightscapenow.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan.



Only use organic materials. Kitchen scraps make excellent compost.

Save the Date

Practical Composting

Saturday, Oct. 28
9 a.m. – Noon

UC ANR South Coast
Research and
Extension Center
7601 Irvine Blvd., Irvine

This workshop will review composting and vermiculture basics along with hands-on activities demonstrating practical applications to fit local landscapes in a working compost environment.

Registration and fee info:
rightscapenow.com/events

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