

Holiday closures

IRWD offices will be closed Dec. 23, 26 and 30. For online service, visit IRWD.com.



Tips for a water-wise wonderland

The latest episode of IRWD's Shed Show is out, just in time to finish off the year with big plans for a wonderful landscape—and a merry little water bill. In this installment, the third in the video series, Senior Water Efficiency Specialist Juan Garcia provides six useful watering tips that you can start implementing today.

Check for leaks. Modernize your spray bodies. Switch to rotating nozzles. Convert to drip. Get smart with a weather-based controller. And—if you're ready to truly transform your yard—replace your turf with a beautiful California-friendly landscape.

With a well-maintained and efficient irrigation system, Juan explains, your plants will get just the right amount of water to thrive. But with a leaking or faulty system, your water bill goes up and your garden suffers. So start planning now. With IRWD rebates

to help pay for your upgrades, you'll have a better yard in the new year. Happy landscaping!

Visit IRWD.com/ShedShow to watch the series!

Succulents: the gift that keeps giving

Succulents make ideal and resilient gifts, given their beauty, stunning colors, clean geometric shapes, ease of care, and effortless propagation.

For do-it-yourself gift-giving, group or pair succulents with complementary colors, forms, textures—and similar moisture and light requirements. Be innovative when selecting containers, too, just as long as the vessels have drainage holes.

Some ideal varieties include echeveria, sempervivums, sedums, aeoniums and aloaceae.

Many of the same succulents that make good houseplant gifts also tolerate Southern California's climate better than non-native, high-water-use plants. So, when succulents outgrow their pots, simply transplant them to an outdoor garden for added appeal and enhanced water savings.



Echeveria



Sempervivum



Sedum



Aeonium



Aloaceae

An ideal rebate for rainy-day savings

Rainfall, rare as it is, is a great source of free and naturally beneficial water for your landscape.

Why not capture it to use when it's dry?

Right now, IRWD offers rebates of \$35 for rain barrels, up to two per customer, to help you harvest those precious pennies from heaven!

Plants and microbes prefer rainwater because it's naturally soft and contains valuable nutrients to help your garden thrive.

Collecting rain from your rooftop also reduces water runoff, which can carry pollution to wetlands downstream.

Visit IRWD.com/rebates for details and conditions on rain barrel rebates and other offers.



Q: Holiday cleanup can be messy. Is it OK to pour gravy down the drain? What about food scraps?

A: Fats, oils and grease are bad for your pipes and can lead to clogs. That includes gravy, rich sauces, melted butter, salad dressings, and other high-fat foods. When poured down drains, these substances solidify, build up inside pipes, and create troublesome and expensive clogs.

Food scraps can also clog pipes, even with a garbage disposal. These food particles can create costly problems for sewer systems because they must be filtered out and shipped to a landfill for disposal.

Here are some tips to keep your drains clear during the holidays and all through the year:

- Pour fats, oils and grease in a container, let them cool, and dispose of them according to the guidelines of your city.
- Wipe greasy pots with a paper towel before washing.
- Put all food scraps in your organics recycling bin or compost them.

Got a question? Email info@IRWD.com with "Ask Customer Service" as the subject line.

Ask Juan



Q: Hi Juan. My landscape looks so drab in the winter. What can I do?

A: Winter landscapes don't have to be dreary. For a vibrant, colorful yard in every season, choose plants that bloom at different times of year. Some manzanitas flower in late fall, winter, and early spring. Other winter options include gooseberries, lemonade berry and Baja birdbush. Hummingbirds depend on these blooms when it's cold. The

evergreen Christmas berry also provides a bounty of beautiful red fruits that are another great seasonal food source for birds. Plant these plants now for an instant pop of color, and they'll establish themselves well for next year's blooms.

Got landscape questions? Email AskJuan@IRWD.com or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at RightScape.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan.

California native corner Juan's December plant: Douglas iris

The Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) is a graceful but showy perennial with rhizomes that spread slowly to form dramatic clumps. The flowers perch on tall stems, bearing 3-inch blossoms of cream to purple. Native along the West Coast from Oregon to Orange County, it prefers part or full shade and richer soils. Learn more at CalScape.org and CalScape.org/planting-guide.php. — Juan

