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## Water-Wise Landscaping To get Garden Back in Shape

Newhall County Water District is encouraging people who are preparing to replace their plants or overhaul their gardens and yard to consider drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees.



Once established, drought-tolerant plants do not need to be watered as frequently and they usually will survive a dry period without any watering. For more water-wise landscaping ideas, visit <http://www.bewaterwise.com/Gardensoft/index.aspx>.

### Here are a few other water-saving tips:

- Group plants together based on similar water needs. When selecting trees, shrubs, ground covers, perennials and annuals for your garden, look for those that naturally grow together and use about the same amount of water.
- Water plants only when needed. It is better to water at night, when evaporation is much lower and air is calmer. Also, avoid runoff and overspray.
- Routinely cultivate your soil, incorporating organic matter such as compost. This will improve the soil's ability to resist evaporation and retain moisture.
- A two-to four-inch layer of mulch also evens out temperature extremes by keeping soil cool on hot days and warm on cool days. It also prevents soil from crusting, allowing better water penetration.
- Plant trees. Trees help to lower air and soil temperatures, reducing plant and soil moisture loss.
- Give your irrigation system a tune-up. Check for leaks or broken parts.