

# Water-saving tips for the onslaught of hot weather

**Here are some tips on saving irrigation water while keeping turfgrass and trees healthy.**

Occasional unseasonality has always been one of the curious things about the weather. That includes blistering hot spells when you least expect them.

The University of California Cooperative Extension Service offers these tips for saving on water while caring for turf and trees.

### Turf

- Water early in the morning to reduce

evaporation.

- Water lawns separately from trees, shrubs and groundcovers, if possible.
- Remove thatch in spring if it's more than one-half inch thick. Thatch should not be removed in the heat of the summer.
- Control weeds. They compete for water, light and nutrients.
- Fertilize moderately, applying at the low end of recommended rates.
- Keep lawns mowed at the right height: 1.5-3" for tall fescue, 1.5-2.5" for perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass; 0.5-1" for bermudagrass and zoysiagrass; 0.5-1.5" for St. Augustinegrass.
- Aerate as necessary to prevent soil compaction. Proper aeration requires

removing plugs. Clay soils in particular need regular aeration.

### Trees

- Water tree separately from surrounding plants. Trees prefer fewer, deeper waterings than grass.
- Water to a depth of two to three feet to help promote deep rooting.
- Keep turfgrass and other plants at least one foot from tree trunks.
- Apply mulch around trees, keeping it a few inches away from tree trunks.
- Control weeds around trees.
- Avoid soil compaction around trees.
- Do not routinely fertilize landscape trees.
- Prune only when necessary: remove dead and diseased wood, dangerous branches, and suckers growing from the base of the tree.

# Listing trees shown to be salt-tolerant

When planning landscape plant installation, several cultural factors should be considered, including the salt tolerance of the plant.

If an area, for instance, is around an oceanside or near a street that may be treated with salt for ice control in the winter, use plants with good salt tolerance. In

other areas, where salt is not a consideration, you can use virtually any plant listed below, and a large variety of others.

If salt tolerance is a concern, you might want to check with your local county extension agent to see what is most readily available and adapted to your particular geographic area.

LOW salt tolerance (0-2000 ppm chloride)	MODERATE salt tolerance (2000-5000 ppm chloride)	GOOD salt tolerance (5000-6000 ppm chloride)
filbert compact boxwood sugar maple red maple lombardy poplar speckled alder sycamore maple larch black alder Italian poplar European beech European hornbeam rose pineapple quava viburnum arctic blue willow spirea multiflora rose winged euonymus barberry little leaf linden black walnut	birch aspen cottonwood hard maple beech white spruce balsam fir Douglas fir blue spruce Texas pivot xylosma pittosporum pyracantha European black currant siberian crab boxelder maple Japanese honeysuckle green ash ponderosa pine golden willow lantana spreading juniper arbor vitae silver buffalo berry	mulberry apricot white oak red oak hawthorne tamarix squaw bush Russian olive Scotch elm white poplar Osier willow honey locust black locust gray poplar silver poplar English oak white acasia bottlebrush oleander common matrimony vine