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Dymondia
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Myoporum
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Common Yarrow
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Give back 20% to nature
Create a two-foot boundary between grass and hardscape to prevent runoff.
You also can remove a two-foot border of grass from your lawn and replace it with mulch, compost, and California Friendly® and native plants. You will want to remove sprinklers in this space and relocate other sprinkler heads, so they evenly water the grass that remains.

Check for broken, sunken or misaligned sprinklers
This directs more water to your lawn instead of the sidewalk or driveway.

Cycle and soak
Short bursts of watering (four to five minutes each) allows time for water to soak into the soil instead of running off your lawn.

About Metropolitan
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative of 26 member agencies – cities and public water agencies – that serve 19 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies and helps its members develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource management programs.

More Helpful Tips
- More water and less waste.
- Cycle and soak
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Alternative Groundcovers //

Looking for great alternatives to a thirsty lawn? Since turf grasses are not suited for Southern California’s semi-arid climate, groundcovers are great low-maintenance, no-mow and environmentally friendly options for your yard. They quickly spread to fill grassless spaces and will keep your yard green and healthy – all while saving water.

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What is hardscape?

Design elements in your landscape like concrete, rocks, bricks, pavers, stone and wood.

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Maintenance a Healthy Landscape in a Drought

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There are big and little steps you can take to conserve. Consider using the hot summer months as an opportunity to turn off your irrigation and sheet mulch to remove grass. Then, in the fall, you can replace your lawn with beautiful California Friendly® and native plants with the help of a rebate.

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For Rebates

More Helpful Tips
What is transpiration?
Transpiration occurs when water in a plant is warmed by the sun, turns into vapor (evaporates) and passes through thousands of tiny pores (stomata) mostly on the underside of a leaf’s surface.

- Drench the plant with compost tea, which will help nurture fungal relations, and improves water retention.
- Prune plants to reduce leaves; plants with fewer leaves have lower rates of transpiration and need less water.

What is compost tea?
Compost teas are a great way to give your plants the nutrients they need without having to shovel and carry heavy loads of compost around your yard. Compost tea is full of beneficial bacteria, fungi and other nutrients.

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Clay soil
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Trees //
- Hand water early in the morning and make sure to give trees a good soak.
- For trees within lawns, remove the grass and create a four-foot perimeter around the tree. Add mulch and a dedicated drip irrigation line.
- Remember, our beautiful, native California Oak trees don’t like summer watering.

Shrubs/Flowers/Groundcovers //
- Water deeply and early in the morning
- Check the weather and choose the coolest and most overcast day of the week to water. Plants prefer a weekly deep watering over more frequent shorter watering.
- Replace your sprinkler system with drip irrigation, which is more efficient and often not subject to watering restrictions.
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Let true Mediterranean and California native plants go drought dormant. These plants evolved to withstand periods of low water availability, let them do what they do best. Once the rain returns, these plants will open up again and show off their beauty and resiliency.

Brown is the NEW Green
• By brown we mean MULCH. Mulch around your plants retains water and soil moisture and extends your watering day(s).
• Do not irrigate mulch; pull it away from plants when watering and then put back into place once watered.

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Clay soil that is made up of small, flat mineral particles or pieces helps retain more water.

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