

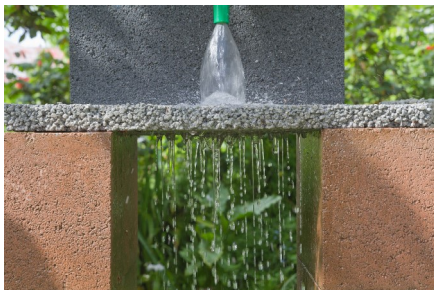
SMART IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS

These irrigation controllers adjust run times based on certain environmental factors, increasing water efficiency. There are four types of controllers, named after the type of data they use to adjust their run times:

- Historical weather data controllers
- Off-Site weather data controllers
- On-Site weather station data controllers
- Moisture sensor data controllers

PERVIOUS PAVEMENT

This paving material captures the water that falls onto it, allowing it to slowly sink into the ground instead of creating run off. It allows for greater infiltration, and can reduce flooding from storm water. Porous concrete and asphalt are both types of pervious pavement, and typically cost two to three times more than traditional pavement.



Pervious pavement allows water to infiltrate into the ground

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Stewardship Guidelines



Upper Salinas-Las Tablas
Resource Conservation District
65 S Main St., Ste. 107
Templeton, CA 93426

Phone: (805) 434-0396
us-ltrcd.org

TOAD CREEK WATERSHED STEWARDS



Outdoor Improvements



RAIN WATER HARVEST SYSTEMS / RAIN BARRELS

This is a system where water is captured from a building's roof and piped into a storage tank. This water can be stored in the tank, and used when needed for irrigation. Although these systems can be expensive, they help reduce flooding during storms and can lead to a lower water bill.



A rain barrel harvesting rainwater

RAINWATER GARDENS

A rainwater garden is a shallow depression planted with water-tolerant native plants, ideally with long roots. These gardens should be located in commonly flooded areas or wherever water runs off in large quantities, such as under downspouts. These gardens capture and filter excess water during storms, reducing flooding and improving water quality.



A rainwater garden at work in LA.

SHEET MULCHING

Sheet mulching involves trimming down the ground cover, applying a layer of cardboard, and spreading compost and mulch over the top. Plants can be planted in holes in the cardboard. This method of mulching maintains soil moisture, increases nutrient content, prevents weed growth and reduces the need for watering.



A mulched and xeriscaped lawn in Paso Robles.

XERISCAPING

Xeriscaping is landscaping with native plants that require little water. These plants are better adapted to the area, needing less water and chemical treatments to thrive. Xeriscaping can be combined with sheet mulching to create a lawn that requires very little water.

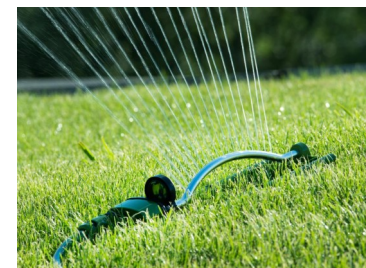
DRIP IRRIGATION

Plants use almost every drop of water applied in a drip irrigation system. Drip irrigation works by slowly applying water to very specific spots. It is inexpensive and can be used in gardens, orchards and unusually shaped fields. It is very important to check for leaks or plugs with this kind of irrigation.



SPRINKLER USE

If you use sprinklers to water your lawn, there are techniques that can improve their efficiency. Limiting the use of sprinklers to the morning and evening limits water loss due to evaporation by avoiding the hottest parts of the day. Additionally, monitor the irrigated area to ensure you are only watering to the point of ground saturation and no pools or runoff are created from



Responsible sprinkler use can help to save water

excess water. This will save water and prevent soil loss and movement of fertilizers into waterways.