

SEPTEMBER 2002

EMWD

reports...

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POPULAR "WATER WISE" GARDENING WORKSHOPS RETURN THIS MONTH

For more than a decade, EMWD's every-other-year workshops have helped hundreds of customers improve their home landscaping while economizing on water.

We hope you noticed the bright yellow flyer enclosed with last month's bill. If you didn't, here's another chance to sign up for this year's free workshops.

Subject matter experts are being brought in to present the programs, and each of the four workshops will cover a different topic. All are designed to help you with every day, "do-able" suggestions and instruction on keeping your yard in tip-top shape while using less water. Dates and subjects of each Saturday workshop are:

- ✿ Sept. 7: Basic irrigation, drip system selection and design.
- ✿ Sept. 21: Soils, fertilizers, watering schedules and automatic timers.
- ✿ Oct. 5: Plant identification and drought-tolerant plants.
- ✿ Oct. 19: Composting and green waste recycling.

Although the sessions are absolutely free, **reservations are required** so that we will know how many people to pre-

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HAVE YOU BEEN "NOTICED" YET?

We hope not, because if you have it may mean you've been wasting water!

This summer's unusually dry conditions have caused water agencies in our arid region to take a variety of unusual conservation measures. Last winter's record low rainfall and the resulting strain on water supplies have made it more important than ever that the public use water wisely.

Here at Eastern we've reintroduced a practice that we haven't used since the last "official" drought ended in 1992: We're

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issuing written “notices” to customers observed seriously violating good water use practices that are outlined in the District’s conservation ordinance.

Although the notices don’t carry any penalty, they allow us to call customers’ attention to wasteful practices they may not even realize they are committing. The notices also allow our conservation staff to follow up with those customers by offering helpful conservation suggestions, perhaps even scheduling a free home water survey.

The notices are carried by EMWD workers whose jobs regularly take them through residential neighborhoods and commercial areas. While relatively minor violations of good water use practice probably won’t earn violators a writeup, serious water wasters will generally “be noticed”.

Among the bad practices specifically listed on the notices are the use of a hose to wash down hard surfaces like driveways and walkways instead of blowing or sweeping them; malfunctioning sprinklers or spigots that don’t shut off properly; significant over watering of yards, or sprinklers spraying onto hard surfaces, causing runoff; and leaving the hose running while washing a vehicle.

It may surprise many people to learn that automatic sprinkler use during the daytime and early evening is also prohibited and could earn them a writeup; customers with automatic systems should water their yards only between midnight and 6:00 a.m., unless they are establishing new plants.

The requirement to irrigate only in the “wee hours” isn’t intended to inconvenience you. In fact, it is to your benefit.

Most landscape specialists recommend watering after plants have cooled down following the day’s heat in order to discourage mildew and fungus growth. They also recommend that yards be watered before the day begins to warm up and before evaporation or “burning” of plants in the hot sun become problems.

Those recommendations go right along with the normal water demand patterns of EMWD customers. Demand is at its lowest after midnight and before most people are getting out of bed in the morning. That means your sprinkler system will work its best because water pressure is at its highest.

So, if you get “noticed” by EMWD, take it in the spirit it’s intended: Examine your water use practices, and promise yourself to become more water efficient. It will save you money, too, because you won’t be paying for water you’re not productively using.

The notices include the telephone number of our conservation office (909-928-3777, Ext. 4384), and we welcome your calls to ask about a notice you may have received or to request water conservation suggestions.

EASTERN'S WATER RATES STEADY, QUALITY HIGH

EMWD water customers can expect rates to remain unchanged for the seventh consecutive year, as a result of the operations and maintenance budget adopted in June.

Wastewater customers felt a modest average one-cent-per-day rate increase last January. That was the first increase most had experienced in five years, and the district hopes to hold rates at the current level for another year.

Eastern has been one of the very few retail water agencies in southern California to avoid rate increases in the wake of last year's power crisis, this year's drought conditions and other rising operating costs.

One way EMWD keeps costs in line is by generating a significant portion of its own electricity from natural gas turbines installed at a number of facilities.

Methane gas that is a byproduct of the sewage treatment process is used as a fuel for selected equipment at several of our wastewater treatment plants.

Much of the district's water pumping is done late at night when commercial power rates are at their lowest. Other efficiencies have been made possible by improvements to processes and equipment used throughout the system.

Water quality is another area of empha-

sis for the Eastern staff. EMWD's water meets or beats federal and state standards established for drinking water systems. A modern, well-equipped laboratory allows us to regularly check our water by submitting samples to rigorous, scientifically established tests. The EMWD laboratory performs hundreds of test procedures daily.

While some people prefer bottled or home-filtered water for flavor, others like tap water better. Chlorine taste and odor that are more noticeable in hot weather can be greatly minimized by refrigerating a pitcher of water and drinking from that.

If safety is a concern, it may surprise you to learn that the content of your tap water is actually more highly regulated by federal and state health officials than bottled water.

At Eastern Municipal Water District, we're dedicated to providing our customers with the highest quality water at the most reasonable rates possible.

For additional information about water quality, rates, or other subjects related to your EMWD service, call the Community Involvement department between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at (909) 928-3777, Ext. 4226.



**WATER DISTRICT
PHONE NUMBERS**

EMWD
Main Number
(909) 928-3777

BILLING INQUIRIES

In Perris and Sun City
call main number
Elsewhere (toll free)
1 - (800) 426-3693

JOB INQUIRIES

Call main number, follow
recorded instructions

**CONSERVATION
INFORMATION**

Call main number,
then ext. 4384

CONSERVATION TIPS

Call main number,
then press 3

**COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT,
EDUCATION**

Call main number,
then ext. 4226

WATER QUALITY

Call main number,
then ext. 6238

**SYSTEM OUTAGES,
TROUBLE CALLS**

Call main number, then
ext. 6265 or (toll free)
1 - (800) 698-0400

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CLIP and SAVE

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pare for and so that we don't over-book the available space. Reservations can be made by calling 909-928-3777, Ext. 4531, and leaving your name, phone number, date(s) of class(es) attending, and number of people in your party.

This year, for the first time, the workshops will be held in the EMWD board of directors' meeting room. The Board Room is located at EMWD headquarters, 2270 Trumble Road, Perris. Take I-215 to Highway 74 south of Perris and go to Trumble Road, which is just a few hundred feet east of the freeway. Turn north onto Trumble and look for the workshop directional signs. If you are coming from Hemet or San Jacinto, take Florida Avenue west to Trumble Road.

All workshops begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at noon. Light refreshments will be provided. There will also be gardening-related door prizes and handouts with useful water wise gardening information available.



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EMWD reports... is designed
to keep EMWD's customers and
the public informed of matters
affecting them.

Forward your comments to the
EMWD Community Involvement
Department at the mailing
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EMWD

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