

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is a permit needed to install a new irrigation system?

A: If the new system will require plumbing connections and/or electrical components, a permit may be required. Please contact Building and Safety counter for more information at 805/654-7869.

Q: Are there any requirements for the installation of a bioswale or dry creek bed for the purposes of retaining rainwater at an existing property?

A: The City of Ventura outlines regulations specific to the catchment and reuse of rainwater within barrel or cisterns in Chapter 12 - Plumbing, of the Municipal Code. No permit is required to construct a bioswale or dry creek bed for the purposes of retaining rainwater on site. However, since certain grading restrictions and/or stormwater regulations may apply, please contact Building and Safety counter for more information at 805/654-7869.

Q: Are there any limitations on what kinds of plants are allowed?

A: There are no specific restrictions, however, the Residential Landscaping Design Guidelines specify a limit on the percentage of turf allowed, restricts plantings to drought tolerant and/or climate appropriate, and specifies soil preparation and irrigation design elements. For more information or to receive a copy of the guidelines, contact the Building and Safety counter at 805/654-7869 or visit www.cityofventura.net/water/landscape.

WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPES IN VENTURA

In 1997, the City of Ventura, as a steward of our local water resources, established guidelines for the design of water efficient landscaping. The State of California required municipal water purveyors to enact a Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (AB 1881) by 2010 which requires the installation of water efficient landscaping and irrigation for all new and remodeled properties. The "Ventura Water Wise Landscaping Guidelines" have been developed by the City's Building and Safety Department and Ventura Water to meet the State water conservation goals while supporting and enhancing our local economy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- **Ventura County Water-Wise Gardening:**
www.ventura.watersavingplants.com
- **California Dept. of Water Resources Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance:**
www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/
- **Surfrider Foundation – Ocean Friendly Gardens**
www.surfrider.org/programs/entry/ocean-friendly-gardens
- **Ventura Water – Water Efficiency Landscape:**
www.cityofventura.net/water/landscape



Proper system design, correct installation and consistent maintenance of efficient irrigation systems combined with the selection of climate appropriate and water efficient plants are the key components of landscape water use efficiency.



The City of Ventura Neighborhood Preservation Section is available to assist you in understanding the various codes and obtaining compliance. Contact us at 805/658.4711.

There are many ways to get involved to enhance the quality of life in our community. Participate in your Community Council – attend public meetings to connect with neighbors, volunteer, raise issues, and make a difference in your neighborhood!

Find Your Neighborhood Community Council
www.cityofventura.net/involved/communitycouncils

Volunteer Ventura!
www.cityofventura.net/volunteer



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document is available in alternate formats by contacting the California Relay Service.

INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

VENTURA WATER WISE LANDSCAPING

IN THE CITY OF VENTURA

- Irrigation Systems
- Lawns
- Ornamental Ponds
- Policies
- Soil Preparation
- Types of Plants



LANDSCAPES

Landscaping plays a key role in development by providing shade and protection from the elements, by helping to soften the transition between the street and developed areas, by providing color and texture, by providing privacy and buffers between buildings and by providing relief from the urban environment in the form of open space and green infrastructure.

VENTURA WATER WISE LANDSCAPING GUIDELINES

All city residential, commercial, industrial and institutional projects are subject to these landscape policies and guidelines.

POLICIES

- All new developments reviewed by the Design Review Committee (DRC) must install drought tolerant landscaping.
- All residential land-uses are to comply with these guidelines.
- All landscape plans must be prepared by a licensed landscape architect.

LAWN AREAS

- The maximum allowed lawn area shall be 25% of the total landscaped area.
- A lawn shall not be planted in any area where the slope gradient exceeds 4% unless approved by the DRC.
- Lawn areas shall be pooled into high visual impact and functional use areas and may not be used along long narrow pathways, in parking strips and roadway medians or along foundations of buildings.

- All lawn types must be warm-season/drought-tolerant.
- A higher percentage of lawn may be allowed at the direction of the DRC if a lawn area is an essential part of a development, such as playing fields for schools.

TYPES OF PLANTS

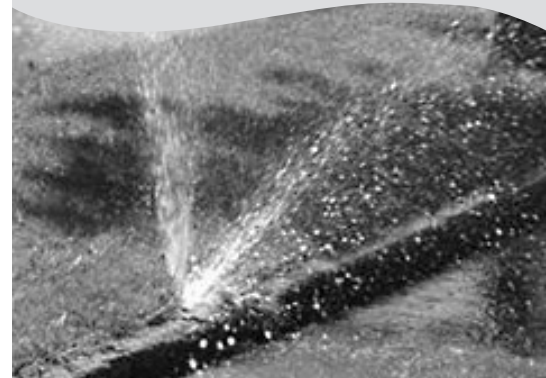


- Plants in non-lawn areas must be drought tolerant plants.
- Mulch substitution for ground cover is highly encouraged.
- Plants must be grouped according to water needs and appropriately located with respect to slope and sun exposure.
- Plants which are not low water using will be grouped together in confined areas or placed in the shade to reduce their water needs.

SOIL PREPARATION

- To achieve a well drained soil with adequate water holding capacity, tilling of the soil and/or addition of soil amendments shall be done in all planting areas prior to landscape installation.
- Soil preparation shall be shown on landscape plans and shall be based on actual soil requirements.

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS



Watering sidewalks is prohibited.

- Rain cup or other such device must be used to insure automatic shutdown during rain periods.
- Low volume/low precipitation rate irrigation heads shall be used and precipitation rates shall not exceed infiltration rates.
- The project landscape architect will provide precipitation rate chart/soil test results to the City at the time of final inspection of the project.
- Lawn areas must set valves to be activated by moisture sensors.
- Drip/trickle/micro spray irrigation must be used where applicable.
- Plants which have different watering needs will be irrigated by separate control valves. Gravel shall be placed in all control boxes.
- Backflow devices shall be painted dark brown and screened with shrubs with a three (3) foot clearance around fire hose connections.
- Irrigation systems must not throw water off the property onto public right-of-way (i.e. sidewalks and streets), paved areas or into non-planted areas or allow run-off into these areas.

ORNAMENTAL PONDS

- Water bodies that are part of the landscaping for new developments are discouraged.
- If the water element is an integral part of the project, the surface area of the water element will be counted as lawn in the calculations for limitations of lawn area.
- Water which is sprayed into the air is highly discouraged.
- Active water recreation areas such as swimming pools and spas shall be excluded from these restrictions.



DID YOU KNOW?

It is estimated that the typical suburban lawn consumes 10,000 gallons of potable water above and beyond rainwater each year.