

FALL 2025

Cooler Weather Brings Fall Planting

October and November are the best months in the Coachella Valley to plant trees, shrubs and perennials.

The fall months bring cooler temperatures while still providing plenty of daylight to help encourage growth. These weather conditions also make it a great time to convert your lawn to desert-friendly landscaping.

For more information on Desert Water Agency's turf (grass) removal program, go to www.dwa.org/save.

If you are interested in an edible garden, now is the time to plant broccoli, Swiss chard, kale, beets, lettuce, collards and cilantro. For a month-by-month guide on planting in the desert, go to www.dwa.org/plantingguide.



For desert-friendly tips, download a low-water landscaping guide at www.dwa.org/lushandefficient.

Non-Functional Turf Ordinance

The Desert Water Agency (DWA) Board of Directors approved a non-functional turf ordinance (Ordinance 80) after a public hearing on August 5, 2025. The ordinance is designed to address a statewide ban on the use of potable (drinking) water to irrigate non-functional turf (grass) at certain types of properties.

Non-functional turf is grass that is purely ornamental in nature and that is not used for recreation or community purposes. Examples of non-functional turf include grass in medians, around office buildings, or parking lots.

Ordinance 80 will be implemented using a phased in approach. Under the ordinance, watering non-functional turf with potable water will be considered a wasteful use of water on:

- State and local government properties
- Commercial, industrial, and institutional properties
- HOA common areas, mobile home parks, apartments, and other common interest developments

The ban does not apply to single-family homes, recreational spaces like parks and sports fields, or areas watered with recycled water. For more information and FAQs, please visit www.dwa.org/nft.



Skip Overseeding: Go Gold to Save

Fall is the time of year when many people in the Coachella Valley overseed their lawns for the winter.

Overseeding is a very water intensive process to get the new seeds to sprout.

That's why DWA encourages customers to "go gold!" for the fall. By skipping overseeding, you can:

- Save money – Seed and labor costs are expensive.
- Conserve water – Overseeding uses a lot of water. Going gold is the sustainable choice.
- Improve air quality – Less mowing or scalping means less dust and particles in the air.
- Maintain healthy grass – Overseeding can stress your lawn, causing it not to look as nice next season.



Tired of keeping up with your grass? Update your yard with desert-friendly landscaping. DWA offers a turf removal incentive of \$2 per square foot for customers. An additional \$1 per square foot is available for Palm Springs residents, for a total of \$3 per square foot.

Cathedral City also has a WaterSmart Landscape Grant Program, which can be found at www.cathedralcity.gov.

For information on overseeding, go to www.dwa.org/overseeding. For incentive details, visit www.dwa.org/save.





Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does DWA offer incentives to help me save water and money?

A: Yes! DWA provides rebates on many water-saving devices, helping customers conserve water and save money.



You can get money back on: smart irrigation controllers (up to \$250); nozzles/irrigation heads (up to \$7); turf (grass) removal (\$2 a square foot or \$3 a square foot for Palm Springs residents); Energy Star washing machines (up to \$250); and high-efficiency toilets (up to \$150).

Be sure to read the eligibility details and incentive instructions online before making a purchase. Go to www.dwa.org/save to learn more.

Get social with DWA!

Follow us for the latest in water news.

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Facebook: @dwawater

X (formerly Twitter): @DWAwater

YouTube: @desertwateragency4898

Nextdoor: Desert Water Agency

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Emergency Preparedness: Have a Plan

California is at risk for various kinds of emergencies, such as wildfires, earthquakes and floods. DWA has disaster plans in place to manage water supply and distribution during emergencies. All DWA personnel are trained Disaster Service Workers. In addition, we collaborate with local and regional partners, including fire and police departments.



DWA regularly tests and maintains its system. Our major reservoirs are designed to preserve stored water if pipelines are damaged. In addition, a certain amount of water in our reservoirs is reserved for fire protection flow and emergency flow.

Often you will see two DWA reservoirs side-by-side. This way, if one is taken out of service, there is another reservoir there to help ensure water service is not interrupted.

While DWA works to protect our community's water supply, it is critical to have your own stash of emergency drinking water at home because disasters could disrupt access to water for days.


Every household should have an emergency plan and a disaster supply kit that includes essential items such as:

- Flashlight
- Batteries
- First-aid materials & medicine
- Non-perishable food
- One gallon of water per person per day (two-week supply)

For more tips and resources, go to www.ready.gov. Sign up for local emergency alerts at www.rivcoready.org/alert-rivco and www.palmspringsca.gov.

Conservation Corner

The weather is cooling, which means less water use outdoors. When watering grass with a spray system, follow this general irrigation schedule:

-  **Oct.** - 7 minutes/day, 7 days/week
- Nov.** - 4 minutes/day, 7 days/week

Even better – consider replacing your grass with desert-friendly landscaping! DWA offers a turf removal incentive of \$2 per square foot (\$3 for Palm Springs residents). Go to www.dwa.org/save for details and for more ways to save!

For a full watering guide, go to www.dwa.org/guide.



Go to www.dwa.org/save to learn more.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information, please contact: DWA Public Affairs at outreach@dwa.org or 760-323-4971, ext. 184. To learn about DWA's conservation programs, please visit: www.dwa.org/save

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The public is welcome to participate in our board meetings at 8 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Meetings are held at 1200 S. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs. For a meeting schedule, please visit: www.dwa.org

