

5 WATER-SAVING TIPS!

For A Water-Smart Winter Wonderland

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While gardening enthusiasts in colder climates put their green thumbs to rest during the winter, those in Orange County enjoy a unique privilege: the ability to garden year-round! Thanks to the region's mild climate, there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy our outdoor spaces even during the rainier months. And, as much of the nation braces for frost and ice-covered soil, you can seize this opportunity to actively transform your garden into a vibrant, water-smart winter oasis.

Beyond the natural benefits, a water-smart landscape offers significant benefits to your mental and physical well-being, making it a perfect addition to your New Year's resolutions list. Gardening doesn't have to be a seasonal hobby. It can be a year-long source of joy! So, zip up your jacket, slip into your gardening gloves and boots, and step outside into your water-smart winter wonderland.

Here are five (5) tips to get started:



1 IN THE LANE, RAIN IS GLISTENING

With rain in the forecast, keep an eye on weather changes. If soil is too wet, it can cause roots to die and plants to lose their vigor. A smart irrigation timer can save you **WATER, TIME, and MONEY** by doing the work for you. MWDOC offers [rebates](#) to help you get started today!

2 'TIS THE SEASON TO BUY SUCCULENTS

Succulents are a great addition to any garden, requiring little water and maintenance. These adaptable plants typically bloom in winter and spring, so you will likely see them in full glory if you purchase and plant them now!

3 THE PRETTIEST SIGHT TO SEE

Did you know? There is a wide variety of California native plants, like manzanita and lemonade berry, that require little water and still produce beautiful, vibrant colors in colder weather! Incorporate plants with striking shades of foliage into your landscape design and enjoy a year-round display of life and color.

4 COMFORT AND JOY

Plenty of cold-hardy culinary herbs thrive and produce in our Mediterranean climate. Herbs like rosemary and thyme will grow even in winter and are a tasty addition to holiday comfort food. These herbs add flavor to your favorite dishes and add aroma and greenery to your gardening, making it both functional and visually appealing!

5 JACK FROST NIPPING AT YOUR NOSE

If a SoCal winter isn't for you, there are several indoor gardening activities too! Keeping a garden journal can be a great way to track progress and learn more about your garden's needs. Other indoor activities include deep cleaning your gardening tools, ordering seeds, or germinating seedlings for the upcoming planting season.