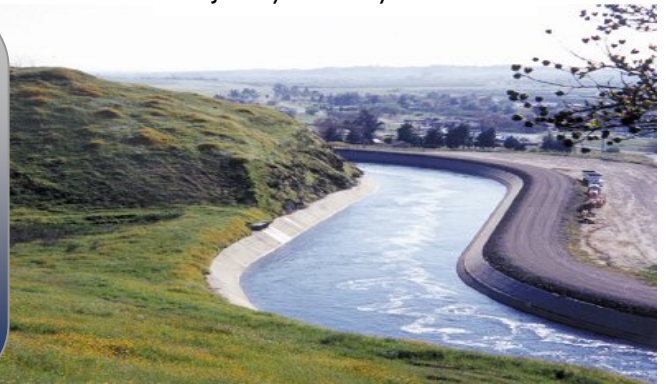


FRESNO WATER SAVER



A Publication of the City of Fresno Water Conservation Program

Friant-Kern Canal

ELIMINATE TURF IN GARDENS

Get ready for water meters with a water wise garden!

Wouldn't it be nice to have a beautiful yard without high maintenance while saving water? You can have a beautiful garden that requires little upkeep by simply eliminating turf grass.

To get a water wise garden, instead of turf, plant colorful and interesting water conserving ground covers, shrubs and perennials. Use a drip system for watering, the most water efficient type of irrigation. You can also consider installing features such as permeable pavers or stone, which can create an attractive patio area. Following these tips can save up to 50% of water loss outdoors due to evaporation and run off!

Know what type of grass you have to properly eliminate it. Warm season turf is most effectively killed when it is actively growing (May – September) with a post-emergent translocating herbicide. Cool season turf can be killed with a post-emergent herbicide during its active growing months (March - May and September - October) or cut off at ground level. For herbicide products available to homeowners, contact your local nursery professional. After eliminating turf areas, add in hardscape features or wildlife friendly features to increase interest and add focal points.



Local Public Gardens

Places to visit for Water Wise lawn replacement gardening ideas!

California State University, Fresno

Allergy Free Demonstration Garden - Arboretum - Rose Garden - Iris Garden

<http://www.fresnostatenews.com/2006/07/arboretum.htm>

Clovis Botanical Garden

A seven acre demonstration garden with climate appropriate plants, currently one acre planted. Garden is located at 945 N. Clovis Ave., Clovis. <http://www.clovisbotanicalgarden.org/>

Friant Water Education Garden

Primarily California native plants. Located on the Fresno side of Friant Dam, enter Millerton State Park <http://www.atinet.org/newcati/upda/2000/cit/friant.html>

Garden of the Sun

Fresno County Master Gardener one acre demonstration garden with food production garden and a perennial garden. Located at 1944 N. Winery Ave. <http://mgfresno.ucdavis.edu/>

Bermudagrass Elimination

Cynodon dactylon

Understanding the growth habits of Bermudagrass so that you may effectively eliminate it.

Bermuda is a valued low water use warm-season perennial turf grass which goes into dormancy when temperatures drop below 50 degrees F; it can also go into drought dormancy if it does not receive some summer irrigation. The key word is dormancy-it is just resting until circumstances are right for it to wake up.

Bermuda spreads by surface and underground shoots (runners). Hybrid Bermuda has shorter shoots and is not as aggressive as Common Bermuda. Each node (bulbous spot), on both surface and underground shoots, has the ability to develop roots. These shoots even if removed from the parent plant can develop roots and grow if irrigated during the warm time of year; and can lie in the soil during either type of dormancy and sprout when the conditions are right.

This means any shoot, even if it has only one node, can lead to Bermuda grass reestablishing itself where you do not want it to grow. Therefore, if you choose to eliminate a Bermuda lawn to establish a garden bed, lay pavers, or plant a different type of lawn you must effectively eliminate all the surface and underground shoots.

Because of its growth cycle the most effective time to eliminate Bermuda is during the warm growing months-May to September. Any approach to eliminating Bermuda will require at least three attempts at eliminating the shoots over a period of three to four months. These approaches include digging or chemicals. With either approach you continue regular irrigation so that any of the remaining Bermuda will sprout and grow so that you may find it and eliminate it.

The chemical approach requires that the Bermuda be actively growing- as the chemical will not be absorbed (translocated into the root system) by dormant Bermuda. It will take one to two weeks after spraying before you see evidence that the chemical is working. In a month or more when you see new Bermuda sprouting, chemically spot treat the green growing areas remembering to continue irrigation.

For further information on appropriate chemicals see 'Bermudagrass', Pest Notes, publication 7453 at:

www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7453.html



Need More Information?

Contact the Water Conservation Program for a free landscape consultation. Call 621-5480

WINTER WATERING SCHEDULE DECEMBER 1 – MARCH 1

SATURDAY ONLY
ODD NUMBERED ADDRESSES
(ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9)

SUNDAY ONLY
EVEN NUMBERED ADDRESSES
(ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8)

WATERING TIMES: ANYTIME ON YOUR WATERING DAY

To report water main leaks or if you need the water shut off to repair leaks on your property, please contact the Water Division at 621-5300.

