Drought Resistant Plants

CREATING A DROUGHT RESISTANT YARD

The newly adopted water conservation measures requires all water customers to cut back on water usage and as warm weather is upon us, it is imperative that everyone in the community does everything they can to conserve water. Active, thoughtful water conservation by everyone in Sierra Madre now could help the City avoid more stringent mandatory measures and/or the import of water from sources outside the City. One way to conserve water is by making your lawn drought tolerant.

- **Improve Drought Tolerance of Your Current Lawn**
  - Remove or fix large mounds and slopes to reduce water run off
  - Raise your mowing height, raising the height of grass can help retain the moisture in the soil
  - Water only at night or the early morning hours
  - Water deeply and infrequently which mimics natural rainfall and promotes a deep root system which enables lawns to better handle drought conditions
  - Automatic irrigation systems can maximize the efficiency of watering by irrigating only the turf and not the sidewalk, driveway, or road
  - If you are going to put in a new lawn, look for drought resistant grasses such as: Bermuda, Zoysia, St. Augustine, Buffalo, Bahia or Fescues.

XERISCAPING

Have you heard of xeriscaping? This is the use of slow growing, drought-tolerant plants to reduce water consumption for landscaping. Living in Southern California means we are constantly looking for ways to reduce out water footprint and xeriscaping with California Native plants is an excellent means to accomplish this goal. The use of native plants not only reduces water consumption, but also reduces the need for pesticides and fertilizers, are low maintenance and require minimal pruning. There are multiple online sites that provide detailed information on how to convert to xeriscape and take advantage of all the benefits!

XERISCAPE WEBSITES

- www.bewaterwise.com/knowledge01.html
- www.theodorepayne.org
- www.avrcd.org
- www.theplantprofiler.com
- www.rsabg.org
- www.laspilitas.com
- www.highcountrygardens.com

These website have excellent information on where to purchase California Native plants, the types of plants that are drought tolerant, tips on how to being the process xeriscape design templates and even classes on xeriscaping!

SIERRA MADRE HONORS DINNER

The City is now accepting nominations for the 2013 Sierra Madre Honors Dinner. Please visit the City website for detailed information on the awards and nomination process at www.cityofsierramadre.com. Nominations are due by August 2, 2013. Awards are given annually in the following categories:

George Mauer Lifetime Achievement Award - Awarded to a person/entity that embodies the spirit of volunteerism
Wistaria Award - A City/Community partnership that assists with providing community-wide programs and services
Police Chief's Special Award - Presented by the Police Chief for outstanding service and duty to the community
Public Safety Award - Presented to an employee/individual for protecting and maintaining safety in the community
Public Service Award - The Employee of the Year award for remarkable public and customer service
Community Youth Service Award - Presented to a youth for outstanding service and dedication to the community