

Wise Water Words

Hello Fellow Master Gardeners.

This month the Texas Gardener Magazine, a subscription based publication, focused it's entire issue on water conservation. All the articles were very informative and I recommend anyone interested to pick up a copy. It reminded me of several water conservation fundamentals and I thought I would highlight some of those in this month's article.

The basis for good water conservation is proper landscape planning. When planning a yard or updating one, there needs to be a balance between hardscapes, beds and lawns. As Master Gardeners you are all aware that planning for the mature sizes of plants in the right places will help with a successful design in a landscape. Considering the soil conditions, sun exposure, and how the space will be used is also important. An obvious, but often over looked aspect is that keeping a smaller lawn area will greatly reduce irrigation requirements as well as weekly maintenance. Replacing some turf with garden beds planted with Texas Superstars, native and adapted plants, or patioscapes can enhance your landscape and reduce your monthly water consumption.

San Antonio Water System customers can take advantage of rebates offered for reducing turf areas which ultimately can put money back in your wallet while conserving that precious natural resource. All of the details can be found on the SAWS website, www.gardenstyleSA.com. (Please remember that in order to qualify for these rebates, SAWS must come out to your property prior to any removal of turf.)

As Master Gardeners, we need to be good stewards of the Earth as well as teach others how to properly care for our planet. Water conservation practices should be a part of every facet of our gardening and teaching experiences.

Conservationally Yours,

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