

Water Wise Words

I hope this finds everyone staying cool and hydrated. These temperatures are much more like we normally have this time of year. I sure did enjoy the rain!

This month I thought I would give y'all a little quiz for you to test your knowledge about water conservation practices in the garden and landscape. This came from an article I wrote several years ago, based on the Texas A&M Earth-Kind Principles. More information can be found at https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earth-kind/files/2015/02/eht_10ways2earthkind.pdf.

This fun little quiz will help remind us of practical tips that will save our natural resources and lower our water bills. Don't worry, the answers are at the end.

Conservationally yours,

Anna Vogler
Water Conservation Coordinator

Water Conservation Quiz

1. Of the tremendous amounts of water applied to lawns and gardens, the greatest waste comes from _____.

- a. Applying too much too often
- b. Runoff
- c. Evaporation
- d. Leaks

2. Creating a water-efficient landscape begins with a _____.

- a. Collection of drought tolerant plants
- b. Water conserving soil amendments
- c. Landscape design
- d. None of the above

3. _____ increases the soil's ability to absorb and store water in a form available to the plant.

- a. Sand
- b. Top soil
- c. Clay
- d. Organic matter

4. Earth-Kind Water Management incorporates _____ basic principles that conserve water and help protect the environment.

- a. 1
- b. 3
- c. 5
- d. 7

5. Combining Texas natives with _____, is a key to a beautiful, interesting landscape which conserves water.

- a. well-adapted non-native plants
- b. cacti
- c. exotic plants
- d. all of the above

6. A well-designed landscape can decrease maintenance by as much as 50 percent through _____.

- a. reduced mowing
- b. once-a-year mulching
- c. elimination of unadapted plants
- d. all of the above

7. Generally speaking, _____ require(s) more frequent watering and maintenance than most other landscape plants.

- a. trees
- b. turfgrass
- c. shrubs
- d. annual color

8. The key to watering lawns is to apply water _____ to create a deep, well-rooted lawn.

- a. frequently, yet thoroughly
- b. infrequently, yet thoroughly
- c. frequently, yet efficiently
- d. none of the above

9. A properly adjusted sprinkler head sprays _____ of water.

- a. a mist
- b. large droplets
- c. small droplets
- d. a stream

10. _____ irrigation also allows safer use of "salty water" in the landscape and garden.

- a. Sprinkler
- b. Overhead
- c. Regular
- d. None of the above

11. In many urban areas of Texas, between _____ percent of the water supply is used for landscape irrigation.

- a. 10-20
- b. 30-40
- c. 40-60
- d. 60-75

12. At the first sign of wilting, you have _____ hours to water turfgrass before serious injury occurs.

- a. 10-12
- b. 12-24
- c. 24-48
- d. 48-72

13. A good mulch _____.

- a. reduces weed populations
- b. prevents soil compaction
- c. keeps soil temperatures more moderate
- d. does all of the above

Answers:

1. a 2. c 3. d 4. d 5. a 6. d 7. b 8. b 9. b 10. d 11. c 12. c 13. d

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