

Warm Weather Tips



UC Master Gardeners: Tips for a Healthy Lawn.

Mowing: Mow when dry; wet grass sticks to the mower blades and clogs the mower. Remove only one-third of the leaf. If the grass becomes too tall, reestablish the recommended height by mowing more frequently for a while, gradually lowering the height of successive cuttings by following the one-third rule. Change your mowing direction each time.

Grasscycling: If you mow at the right frequency, cut at the proper height for your species, and follow the one-third rule, you can let your grass clippings remain on the lawn. Grasscycling returns nutrients to the lawn, supplying about 20% of the fertilizer requirements.



Watering: Your lawn needs water when the top two inches of soil have dried out. If footprints remain visible, grass has changed color or wilted, you need more water. Water between 2:00 and 8:00 a.m., when water use is most efficient, evaporation is minimal, water pressure is best, and wind is limited. High evaporation wastes water in the afternoons and can burn the lawn. Grass is susceptible to diseases if wet during cool nights, so avoid evening watering.

As turf becomes established, roots extend deeper into the soil. Light sprinkling encourages root development near the soil surface and stunts deeper root growth. Shallow root systems require frequent watering to keep the surface wet, creating an ideal environment for weeds and diseases. Allow water to penetrate the top 6 to 8 inches of soil to promote healthy root growth.

Lawns need uniform coverage to maintain vigor and a healthy appearance. Brown spots mean uneven coverage. Check your sprinklers to make sure they apply water evenly. Too much water is wasteful and can increase turf growth, which requires more frequent mowing. Saturated soil can cause poor soil aeration and weaken turf, making it vulnerable to diseases and weeds.

Get help from the UC Master Gardeners at www.sjmastergardeners.ucdavis.edu.

Dept News.....

Administration Building: Battery collection points have been established on each floor. From there they go to the County's HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) facility to be recycled.

Assessor and E2D2: These departments already formed green committees and set goals for improving their work areas. See more details on the County's website at www.sjgov.org/green.

Eco Tip: Maintain your tires.

Properly inflated tires wear evenly, which helps them last longer, reduces blowouts, provides a smoother ride, and uses less gas. It's better for the environment, your safety, and your budget! For more tips: www.JustCheckIt.com.



Green Committee News

Agendas, minutes, presentations, news briefs, implementation plans, training aides, and more are available at www.sjgov.org/green. The website will be undergoing some changes soon. Watch for more details!



Featured Product:



Recycled Paint: Unused paint gets screened and blended to become high quality paint once again. Custom colors match any tint desired. What's missing? Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and strong odors! The next time you visit the County Administration Building, look at the walls, covered in quality recycled paint supplied by Visions Paint Recycling, and judge for yourself! (www.visionsrecycling.com). Under the County's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy, *Recycled Paint* gets the "green" light!

Find more information about the REACON Green Business Assessment at www.GreenTeamSanJoaquin.com

CALL FOR ACTION: We need your help! Sub-committees have been formed for website, communication, goals, and electronics/technology. Bring ideas and/or talents. If interested, email David Louis at dlouis@sjgov.org.