Dear Friend,

We hope you enjoy the 2019 Landscaping Lightly calendar. There are new tips and inspiring illustrations, as well as familiar tips from years past to help each of us create more sustainable and climate resilient landscapes.

California continues to experience extreme storm and fire events and prolonged periods of drought and hotter days. We need landscapes and gardens that use water wisely, create native habitat, provide nutritious food to enjoy, and connect us to what makes California unique and beautiful. Each month there is an opportunity to take action, and each of us can take a step toward improving the health of our neighborhoods, our schools, our communities, and our local watersheds. Take a step - or more - toward capturing rain, cleaning stormwater runoff, and growing gardens that provide beneficial habitat and connect students - and all of us - to nature. These landscapes are not only sustainable but also are lower maintenance, saving time and money.

With generous support from our partners listed below, we hope you enjoy using the information and resources provided in this year’s Landscaping Lightly. From all of us at the Council for Watershed Health, we wish you a happy and healthy new year!

Sincerely,
Eileen Alduenda
Interim Executive Director | Council for Watershed Health
HARVEST THE RAIN

PROTECT OUR RIVERS
Harvesting the rain is a great way to keep polluted stormwater out of our rivers and oceans. By collecting and using rainwater in your landscape you can help the planet and lower your water bill!

Use rain barrels attached to your rain gutters to collect rain for later use. Be sure to use the collected water regularly; average-sized rain barrels can fill quickly even in small storms.

A 1000 square foot rooftop in Los Angeles produces on average more than 9000 gallons of water annually. For larger landscapes, consider using cisterns to store rainwater to use year-round! Visit http://www.treepeople.org/sustainable-solutions-0 for more information.

Collect rain water from your roof by using rain gutters and directing your downspouts into designated areas of your garden.

Sponsored by Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation

JANUARY 2019

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New Year’s Day

Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday

Council For Watershed Health | www.watershedhealth.org
GREEN YOUR SCHOOLYARDS

Outdoor Classrooms Inspire and Educate
Schoolyards can be hot and unhealthy places for kids to learn and play. By finding opportunities to minimize asphalt surfaces, plant trees and native plants, grow food, and collect and infiltrate the rain, our schools can become environmental learning and demonstration centers for communities. Call your local school district to see how you can donate or volunteer to support these efforts.

School gardens and outdoor classrooms are spaces that teachers can use to break down traditional boundaries between disciplines. From LifeLab to the Education and the Environment Initiative - curriculum and lesson plans tied to state standards are available to teachers who are looking for ways to bring the environment into their classrooms and connect their classrooms to the environment.

To learn more visit Green Schoolyards America is a national organization that expands and strengthens the green schoolyard movement. They have a great list of references and resources to help you get started or to support your existing school greening projects. www.greenschoolyards.org.
CASH IN YOUR GRASS

WATERWISE GARDENS SAVE WATER AND MONEY
More than half of potable water is used in your yard. Take advantage of “cash for grass” rebates and replace your lawn with low water California native groundcovers and shrubs. To learn about rebates available in your area visit www.socalwatersmart.com.

Sheet mulching is an effective way to kill stubborn grasses over time. For sheet mulching instructions and videos plus more lawn conversion tips visit bayfriendlycoalition.org/LYL.shtml.

If you must keep a little grass, good low water alternatives include UC Verde buffalograss and Kurapia, or create a native grass meadow and add some native bulbs and wildflowers. For more great plants visit www.plantbook.com.

For more great tips pick up a copy of Reimagining the California Lawn: Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs. And when you are ready to pick out your plants, no book provides better information than Landscape Plants for California Gardens. Happy planting!
MOBILIZE AGAINST MOSQUITOES

FIND, DRAIN AND DUMP WATER WEEKLY
**Tips**

There are new mosquitoes in Southern California called invasive Aedes mosquitoes (tiger mosquitoes) that bite during the day and have the potential to transmit diseases like Zika, dengue, yellow fever, and chikungunya. It’s now more important than ever to inspect your yard weekly, and dump any standing water that you find.

Aedes mosquitoes were introduced just a few years ago and they are now thriving in our neighborhoods. Standing water in backyards, old tires, gutters, rain barrels, toys, buckets, ponds, improperly maintained pools, and storm drains can act as breeding areas. They will breed in something as small as a bottle cap.

In ponds, fountains, bird baths or pools where water is not moving or filtered, use mosquito dunks that contain the biological mosquito control agent called Bti. Bti is natural and kills mosquito larvae but is harmless to wildlife and pets.

Studies have shown that mosquitoes are part of the diet of some birds, bats, frogs, lizards and dragonflies. Plant native plants to create habitat for these mosquito eaters.

**April 2019**

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**Cesar Chavez Day**

**Tax Day**

**Earth Day**

**Good Friday**

**First Day of Passover**

**CALIFORNIA MOSQUITO AWARENESS WEEK**

Sponsored by

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STAY FIRE SAFE

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRES
If you live in a fire hazard area, learn how to create fire resistant structures and maintain a defensible space around your home. Visit www.ucanr.org/sites/SAFELandscapes for more info.

When landscaping, consult with your local fire department to make sure that your plant selection and spacing are fire safe.

Minimize flammable plants from within 30 feet of your house. Maintain individual trees and shrubs to keep them free of dead wood.

Create space between trees and shrubs located within 30-100 feet of your structure (200 feet if your local fire department requires it). Visit firecenter.berkeley.edu resources for more tips.

Regularly clean debris from your roof and gutters to keep blowing embers from igniting structures.

Start a local Fire Safe Council for your community to educate residents on how to protect their homes and neighborhoods from wildfire. Learn more about how you can join the over 100 Fire Safe Councils at www.cafiresafecouncil.org.
Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect picnic areas and campsites for trash or spilled foods. Pack out ALL trash, leftover food and litter.

Control your pets at all times, or leave them at home. Respect wildlife by observing them from a distance. Do not follow, approach, or feed them. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
STALL 'TIL FALL
PLANT IN SEASON
Follow nature - Wait until November when temperatures fall and winter rains begin to install native plants.

Planting in the summer when the soil is hot and dry decreases your chances of a successful landscape. Who wants to buy plants twice due to poor planning??

Most drought-tolerant California native plants want winter water and flourish best when planted when soils are cooler and moister.

If turf is removed or landscape planning proceeds, use summer months to design the landscape, prepare soil, remove/control weeds, install hardscape (pathways, birdbaths) and stormwater infiltration features.

Begin shopping your plant list at local native plant nurseries for purchase during the big fall plant sales.

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Council For Watershed Health | www.watershedhealth.org
WATER WISELY

WATER EARLY AND EFFICIENTLY
TIPS

Be smart and reduce your water use by watering in the early morning when evaporation rates are low.

Keep valuable water on your property where it is needed. Mosquitoes thrive in runoff that collects in gutters and underground storm drains, risking public health. Visit the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District’s website for more information: www.glacvcd.org.

Lawns require significantly more water than most other garden plants. Take part in lawn-to-garden incentive programs where you can receive a rebate for each square foot of lawn you replace. Visit www.socalwatersmart.com for current rebates.

Use weather based irrigation controllers, rotor sprinkler heads, drip and micro-emitters to increase water efficiency and save money.

Use the Watering Index to estimate the amount of water your plants need and set your controller accordingly. This can save hundreds of gallons in the summer months. See the index at: www.bewaterwise.com.

Sponsored by bewaterwise.com®
INVEST IN TREES

HIRE A CERTIFIED ARBORIST
Entrust the health and safety of your trees to certified arborists. Pruning or removing trees can be dangerous and should be done only by those trained and equipped to work safely in trees.

Good tree care is an investment that has many benefits that can add significant value to your property. The following link has more great tree care tips: www.isa-arbor.com.

Some trees, especially native oaks, are protected and permits are required for pruning and removal. Check your local ordinances before you work in native trees.

With more frequent droughts and new tree pests, good tree care has never been more important than it is today. By hiring a certified arborist you can ensure that your trees will provide benefits for many generations.

Trees should never be topped! Topping stresses trees, facilitates decay in branches, and creates significant hazards that could cause great harm to life and property. For more info visit: www.urban.tree.org/incorrectpruning.shtml.

Sponsored by

SEPTEMBER 2019

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Labor Day

First Day of Autumn

Rosh Hashanah
CONSERVE OUR WATER
GROW HEALTHY GARDENS
Water is a precious resource, so don’t spray your pavement and always use a broom. Fix leaky faucets and always use a shut-off nozzle attachment on hoses.

You can save on watering in your garden by redirecting your rain gutter downspouts into your garden or into cisterns. Properly stored rainwater can be used to water your garden after the rains stop.

When properly used, mulch and compost will reduce the need to water. Mulch or compost fallen leaves also to control weeds and provide nutrients to your plants.

Your lawn might be your biggest water-waster so consider taking advantage of rebates and replacing your lawn. There are many beautiful alternatives that use much less water, such as drought-tolerant trees and shrubs.

Grow fruits and vegetables for edible landscaping. And use mulch and micro irrigation to reduce the amount of water that fruit and vegetables require.

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JACOBS®
WORK WITH WATER
MAKE SURFACES PERMEABLE
To minimize the pollution of our rivers and beaches, keep as much rainwater on your property as possible. For a How-to Guide, List of Rain Barrel Manufacturers, and a Tool Check List, visit www.larainwaterharvesting.org.

Replace concrete with gravel paths and permeable pavement to allow water to soak in. Create depressions filled with vegetation or rain gardens, and redirect your downspouts into these areas.

Swales, rain gardens, and permeable pavers not only provide environmental benefits, they can add beauty and value to your home.

Sweep brick, pavers, and pavement regularly and keep them clear of weeds to maintain maximum permeability.

A great resource for redesigning your landscape to catch rainfall is Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond by Brad Lancaster. It is available at www.harvestingrainwater.com.

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November 2019
RECYCLE THE RAIN

SLOW IT, SPREAD IT, SINK IT
Slow it down, spread it out, and sink it in! Keep storm-water from polluting streams and the ocean by creating areas where rainwater can soak into your landscape.

Swales are u-shaped basins in your landscape that capture rain, preventing it from flowing down streets and picking up pollution. Visit the Council for Watershed Health’s demonstration green street and alley at Elmer Avenue for ideas (tinyurl.com/GreeningElmer).

The first step is to find out if your soils allow water to quickly soak in as you don’t want to create areas of standing water that will breed mosquitos. Perform a soil infiltration test (tinyurl.com/stormwatercapture).

Be sure to plant your swale with deep-rooted native plants and make sure to apply mulch frequently to build your soil and keep weeds at bay. Once plants have matured, keep them trimmed away from the ground and do your best not to disturb or compact the soils.

Sponsored by

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

December 2019

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First Day of Chanukah

First Day of Winter
KEEP WILDLIFE WILD
DON'T FEED WILD ANIMALS
**Tips**

Do not leave pet food outside, especially overnight. Unwanted scavengers will become accustomed to the food source.

Never feed or try to tame wild animals like squirrels, skunks, raccoons, deer, coyotes, or bears. Dangerous or even deadly conflicts can occur.

Only use trashcans with locking lids. Large animals can tip trashcans, so keep them secure until collection days.

Deer-proof your garden by fencing your yard and by growing plants deer don’t like to eat.

If you live near a wildland area, do not leave cats and small dogs outside on their own.

If confronted by a coyote, bear, or mountain lion don’t run. Make noise, try to look bigger, and fight back if necessary.

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**January 2020**

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New Year’s Day

Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday

Council For Watershed Health | www.watershedhealth.org
JANUARY - HARVEST THE RAIN
City of Los Angeles – Rainwater Harvesting Program, Homeowner’s How-To Guide  
www.larainwaterharvesting.org
Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond by Brad Lancaster  
www.harvestingrainwater.com
Surfrider Foundation – Ocean Friendly Gardens  
www.surfrider.org/programs/entry/ocean-friendly-gardens

FEBRUARY - GROW GREEN SCHOOLYARDS
California Native Plant Society School Garden Project  
www.cnps.org/gardening/school-gardens
California Office of Education and the Environment  
www.calrecycle.ca.gov/education/gardens
Garden School Foundation  
www.gardenschoolfoundation.org
Green Schoolyards America  
www.greenschoolyards.org
LA Unified School District, Sustainability Initiatives  
www.learninggreen.laschools.org
Life Lab  
www.lifelab.org
UC Master Gardener School Garden Program  
www.celosangeles.ucanr.edu/UC_Master_Gardener_Program/School_Gardens/

MARCH - TRADE IN YOUR TURF
MWD’s Landscape Transformation Incentive Program  
www.socalwatersmart.com/?page_id=2967
Landscape Plants for California Gardens  
www.landdesignpublishing.com
Reimagining the California Lawn: Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs  
www.cachumanpress.com/catalog/california-lawn.html

APRIL - MOBILIZE AGAINST MOSQUITOES
Find Your Local Mosquito and Vector Control District  
www.SoCalMosquitoes.org
Greater LA County Mosquito and Vector Control District  
www.glacvcd.org
San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District  
www.sgvmosquito.org
Summit Mosquito Control Dunks and Granules  
www.summitchemical.com/mosquito
Tips for Creating Bat Habitat to Manage Mosquitos  
www.nwf.org/en/Garden-for-Wildlife/Cover/Build-a-Bat-House

MAY - STAY FIRE SAFE
California Native Plant Society – Fire Safety  
www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/resources.php
Center for Fire Research and Outreach  
firecenter.berkeley.edu/resources
County of Los Angeles Fire Department Forestry Division  
fire.lacounty.gov/forestry-division/forestry-fuel-modification/
California Fire Safe Council  
www.cafiresafecouncil.org
UCCE - Sustainable and Fire Safe Landscapes  
www.ucanr.org/sites/SAFELandscapes

JUNE - LEAVE NO TRACE
Tips for Wilderness Visitors  
www.wilderness.org/blog/29-critical-leave-no-trace-tips-wilderness-visitors
Sustainable Recreation  
www.wilderness.org/article/sustainable-recreation

JULY - STALL TILL FALL
Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District - Wild About Natives  
California Native Plant Society – Grow Native Program  
www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative
ARTIST PROFILE

Ed Lum is a talented illustrator and painter whose work is reminiscent of early 20th Century travel posters and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) art of the 1930’s. He was born in 1966, is a fourth generation Chinese-American, and works out of his studio at the historic Monterey Trailer Park in Los Angeles.

Check out www.funkyjunkfarms.com to see more of his work. Contact Ed: Edlum711@yahoo.com.
MOSQUITOES
MOBILIZE AGAINST
Find, Drain and Dump Water Weekly

HARVEST
THE RAIN
PROTECT OUR RIVERS

STAY FIRE SAFE
PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE

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GROW HEALTHY GARDENS

COUNCIL FOR WATER SHED HEALTH
KEEPING THE ENVIRONMENT SAFE

TO PRINT THIS CALENDAR AND PASS IT ONTO A FRIEND, VISIT www.landscapinglightly.com.
QUESTIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE SENT TO info@watershedhealth.org.

COUNCIL FOR
WATERSHED HEALTH

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