



CITY OF AUBURN

Public Works Department

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NEWS RELEASE

Rework Landscapes Now to Save Water and Reduce Pesticide Use Next Summer

City of Auburn Pushes For a Healthier Environment

AUBURN, Calif. — October 12, 2009 — The City of Auburn encourages residents to rework their landscape this fall to save water and reduce pesticide use next spring and summer. Now that the weather is cooler, it is the perfect time to rework foothill landscapes with waterwise plants and native species.

Xeriscaping is a landscaping strategy with slow-growing, drought tolerant plants to conserve



water and make yard care easier. Xeriscapes use plants based on the suitability of their location: the amount of rainfall, soil type, temperature, and amount of sunlight. When the right plants for a location are selected—rather than those picked solely for their appearance— xeriscaping

saves water, saves time, and reduces the chemicals that flow into stormdrains, creeks and rivers.

Even if a completely new landscape is not possible, small changes can make a big difference. Fall is the perfect time to make these changes because the cooler days help new plants to get established before the summer heat.

“This year, the city of Auburn is pushing very hard to reduce the flow of pesticides and chemicals into the storm drains,” said Bernie Schroeder, engineering department manager for the city. “We are asking every resident to look at their landscape and make changes now that will reduce pesticide use and conserve water. Changing a few plants, removing lawns and picking organic fertilizers and pest control methods can go a very long way to improving our environmental health.”

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The city encourages residents to adopt the following:

- Replace lawns with hardscape or native grasses that require less water and less fertilizer.
- Replace water-thirsty plants with drought-tolerant varieties like sages, grasses and other herbs.
- Switch to biological pest control methods and natural fertilizers. There are many new options available at nurseries and garden/hardware stores.
- Never apply pesticides when rain is imminent.
- Take old containers of chemicals to WPWMA (www.wpwma.com).

Visit the nursery, shop online or talk with the Master Gardeners (530)-889-7388 and the U.C. Cooperative Extension for more information about xeriscaping and water-wise landscapes. There is additional information and resources on the city of Auburn's Healthy Auburn Waters website www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org.

About the Healthy Auburn Waters Campaign

The Healthy Auburn Waters campaign—sponsored by the City of Auburn—is a public education program that teaches residents and businesses how to properly dispose of chemicals; pesticides; cooking fats, oils and grease; motor oil, medications and fuel. The Healthy Auburn Waters campaign seeks to protect Auburn waterways for the people and wildlife that live in our area. For more information, visit www.HealthyAuburnWaters.org.

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Note: High-resolution images of xeriscapes available upon request. Please give photo credits to Landshaping (www.landshaping.com).

