Water Conservation Landscape Programs

November 18, 2020

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Conservation Stage Water Restrictions

**Residential**
- **Automatic Irrigation**
  - Even Address: **Thursday**
  - Odd Address: **Wednesday**
- **Hose-End Sprinklers**
  - Even Address: **Thurs, Sun**
  - Odd Address: **Wed, Sat**
- **Hours**
  - Midnight - 10 AM
  - 7 PM - Midnight
- Home Car Wash Allowed with Bucket or Auto Shut-Off Hose
- Tree Bubblers, Hand-Held Hose, Drip Irrigation: Any Day/Time

**Commercial/Multi-Family**
- **Automatic Irrigation**
  - Even Address: **Tuesday**
  - Odd Address: **Friday**
- **Hours**
  - Midnight - 10 AM
  - 7 PM - Midnight
- Tree Bubblers, Hand-Held Hose, Drip Irrigation: Any Day/Time

Schools on Mondays
Way to Conserve Water in the Landscape

• Use more rainwater

• Design a WaterWise landscape

• Maintain your landscape

• Maintain your irrigation system
Rainwater Harvesting

Residential and Commercial
Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program

- Austin Water offers a financial incentive to encourage rainwater harvesting for non-potable uses.
- Rebate amount: (Not to exceed 50% of the system cost)
  - .50 / gal. for non-pressurized systems. (rainbarrels and cisterns)
  - 1.00 /gal for pressurized systems (cisterns with a pump)
  - $5000 max rebate
- Rainbarrels 500 gallons and less.
  - May install after purchase but must submit application and receipts within 30 days of purchase
- Systems over 500 gallons.
  - A site drawing, a system drawing, photos of the proposed location, and operation/maintenance guide must be included with the application before installation.
- May apply once a year
WaterWise Landscape Rebate Program

Residential and Multi-Family Condominiums

- We are giving an incentive to take out your healthy turf grass and replace it with native plant beds
- $35 for every 100 sq.ft. that is converted. (min 500 sq.ft. – max 5000 sq.ft.)
- No turf to turf replacement, must be native plant bed and/or mulched hardscape
- No artificial turf or gravelscapes (Zeroscaping)
Eligibility

- Austin water residential customer or qualifying water provider
- Size of conversion area (500sqft min)
- Have not started work on the conversion (must be accepted into the program first)
- Health of current turf grass must be 75% or better
Program Requirements

• Plants from the Grow Green plant guide
• Existing sprinkler systems must be capped off or converted to drip our low use bubblers in the conversion area.
• Plant beds and mulch hardscape must have 2-3” of hardwood mulch
• Conversion area must comprise of over 50% plant cover at maturity
• No gravel paths greater than 3 feet in width
Recent changes

- No landscape fabric required
- No compost required
- No new automatic sprinkler systems
- Gravel patio area can be included (200 sqft max)
Homeowners and schools may receive up to $500 ($0.30/sq. foot -- 100 sq. foot min.) for installing landscape features such as rain gardens, berms, swales, terraces, and porous pavement that direct and retain rainwater on the property.
Eligibility

- Austin water customer or qualifying water provider
- Size of conversion area (100 sqft min)
- Have not started work on the conversion (must be accepted into the program first)
Raingardens
Berms
Swales
Rainwater Terracing
Porous Pavement
Landscape Survival Tools for Your Yard

This rebate program designed to keep your yard healthy while still saving water. By using a combination of mulch, compost, and aerating your lawn, you will ensure that water stays on your yard, reducing the need for supplemental irrigation.

* NOW YEAR-ROUND!!!

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How it works

• You buy the landscape survival tools over or at the minimal amounts.
• Keep the receipts.
• Install the drought survival tools for your yard.
• Take photos of the completed work.
• Turn in application, receipts and photos.
Minimum amounts for flat rebate

• Compost – 2 cubic yards or 54 cubic feet
  • Rebate $50

• Mulch – 2 cubic yards or 54 cubic feet
  • Rebate $40

• Aeration service for entire front and/or back lawn area (equipment rental is acceptable)
  • Rebate $30
Irrigation Upgrade Program - Upgraded

Residential and Commercial

• Irrigation Upgrade Rebate (Max $1000)
  • Existing irrigation systems only
  • Either the homeowner or a licensed irrigator may do the work
  • Receipts must be itemized with labor and parts separated
  • Must submit the application within 30 days of completing the upgrade work
Irrigation Upgrade Program

- Conversion from Spray to Multi-Stream rotor nozzles ($4/nozzle – up to $200)

- Conversion of a Station to Drip ($50)

- Rain or Soil moisture Sensors ($50 – once per site)
Irrigation Upgrade Program

• Pressure Regulating Valve ($150 – once per site)
• Pressure Regulating Components (50% of task up to $400)
• Capping a Station ($100 per station)
• Converting station from 2- or 4-inch pop up heads to 6-inch heads ($3 a head, up to $200)
Hose-end Timer Rebate Program

- Austin Water residential customers can receive rebates for 50% of the pre-tax purchase price for up to two (2) hose timers, with a maximum rebate of $40 per service account. Any style or brand is eligible, from a simple mechanical timer to a multi-zone, programmable digital timer for multiple hoses. **Plumbing regulations require that these timers be used with hose bib vacuum breakers.**
Pool Cover Program

- Qualifying Austin Water residential customers can receive a rebate for 50% of the purchase price up to: $50 for a new manual pool cover or solar rings; or $200 for a new permanent, mechanical pool cover.
Cartidge Pool Filter Program - NEW

Residential and Commercial

• Up to $250 to replace a sand or diatomaceous earth pool filter with a cartridge pool filter

• Rebate amount may not exceed total amount of eligible equipment costs
Laundry-to-Landscape Program - NEW

• Qualifying Austin Water residential customers can receive a rebate for 50% of eligible graywater system cost (up to $150)

• Limit one rebate per address
Home Water Use Monitoring Device - NEW

• 75% of device cost, up to $200
• Must be an Austin Water approved monitoring device, including but not limited to:
  • Buoy
  • Phyn
  • Flume
  • Flo by Moen – Smart Water Shutoff
  • Pani
  • Streamlabs Control
Free Stuff

• Soil Moisture Meters

• Sunlight Calculators
  • Check them out at the library

• Hose End Meters
  • Check them out at the library
My Contact

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The Benefits of Compost

“For every 1% organic matter content, each cubic foot of soil can hold an additional 1.5 quarts of plant-available water” (Sullivan, 2002).
The Benefits of Mulch

- Mulch will reduce the amount of water that evaporates from your soil, greatly reducing your need to water your plants.

- Mulch improves the quality of clay soil by breaking it up and allowing better water and air movement through the soil.

- Mulch provides nutrients to sandy soil and improves its ability to hold water.

- Mulch acts as an insulating layer on top of soil, keeping roots cooler in the summer.
The Benefits of Turf Aeration

- Before Aeration: Thatch Layer, Shallow Roots, Compacted Soil
- Immediately Following: Water ($H_2O$) and Oxygen ($O_2$) penetrate more deeply
- 9 - 10 Weeks Following: Newer & Deeper Roots