

**PPT SCRIPT:**  
**Improving Water Efficiency of Your Landscape**

**Created:** developed August 15, 2022/ approved TBD  
**Created by:** Marianne L. Calhoun, Placer County Master Gardener  
**Audience:** Homeowners interested in improving the water efficiency of their landscape  
**Publicity:** Four Approaches for Improving the Water Efficiency of Your Landscape  
1. Regularly Enhancing Soil 2. No Cost Ways  
3. One Time Investments 4. Reshaping Front Lawn  
**Update History:** include date, name of updater, explanation of update  
(additional slides added? web links updated? etc.)

**Slide 1 Welcome**

**Topic:**

Four Approaches for Improving the Water Efficiency of Your Landscape

**Who Am I?**

Master Gardener since 2019;  
studied landscape design + horticulture upon retirement;  
transformed half acre property from grass + concrete to water-wise  
(California + Mediterranean plants)

**Who Are You?**

How large is your property: 1/8 acre+? 1/2 acre+? 1 acre+?  
Do you have irrigation zones for high-moderate -low water plants?  
Have you reshaped or removed your lawn?

**Opportunity to ask questions after each of four sections**

**Slides 2, 3, 4 MGPC info**

**Slides 7, 8, 9 Regularly Enhance Soil to improve water retention**

**10 Any Questions?**

**Slides 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 No Cost Ways to improve water efficiency**

**11 Arrange Free Consultations**

Irrigation Zone = Hydrozone = Zone (interchangeable words)

**13 Modify Watering Habits**

Need to know your soil type

- water early morning (when ground is coolest)
- maximum run time (example is shown on next slide)
- cycle + soak (soak clay soil = 1 hour; sandy loam = 30 minutes)
- monitor regularly (both irrigation products + growing plants)
- expand drip system (as plants grow, move to follow dripline)

#### **14 Example:**

Rainbird inline drip irrigation  
12" emitter spacing and 1.0 gallons per hour in coarse soil  
= 18 minute maximum run time

#### **16 Free Irrigation Scheduler**

Beyond The Drought was created for Be Water Smart and the Sacramento region

Example:

low water plants + full sun + high wind + steep slope + sandy loam soil  
+ inline irrigation = 36 minutes of water per week

#### **17 Consider Creating a Spreadsheet**

lengthen intervals between watering over time to promote deeper roots

#### **18 Example: (spreadsheet is modified several times a year)**

High Water zone for lawn = .7" per week  
Moderate Water zones with edible plants = .6" per week  
Low Water zones with CA + mediterranean plants = .45" per week

#### **19 Any Questions?**

#### **20, 21 One Time Investments to upgrade irrigation system**

##### **20 Purchase from Professional Irrigation Store**

Smart controller ( to maximize efficiency)  
Online app for smart controller (to monitor)  
Flow meter (to tally water usage)  
Lawn: low-flow sprinkler heads (with matched precipitation)  
Lawn: 6" pop-up nozzles (higher than 4" pop-ups for 2-3" grass)  
Non-lawn: drip irrigation (inline drip most reliable and durable)  
(Consider: calibrated water meter)

##### **21 Weekly Watering Schedule**

Example: Hunter Hydrowise's Virtual Solar Sync  
my 12 zones spaced throughout the week; 5-10am

#### **22 Any Questions?**

#### **Slides 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 Reshape Front Lawn to lower water usage**

##### **25 Envision New Areas**

Color markers show existing conditions + trees, desired screening, and potential paths

##### **27 New Lawn**

Example: sod is Delta Bluegrass' Bolero Plus  
550 sf lawn only takes 10 minutes to mow

##### **28 Five Years Later**

1. Sprinklers along curves is not effective way to water
2. Shrubs growing wider than anticipated

(need to be constantly trimmed + create shade on lawn)

**29 Any Questions?**

**31 Photo**

MW zone in foreground; LW zone replaced lawn on slope; flat HW lawn on top

**33 Thank You + Evaluations, please**

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**\*\* BRING:** Equipment; Evaluation Sheets; Handouts; etc.

**\*\* AFTER:** pass along number of contacts to Public Workshops