Ask a Master Gardener

Mulching to Conserve Water and Reduce Weeds

By Johanne Ryker, Placer County Master Gardener

Q I am trying various methods and ways to conserve water including installing drip lines. Do you have any suggestions that will help keep my plants happy (alive) and use less water?

A Applying layers of mulch around plants helps to conserve soil moisture and has a great side benefit of controlling weeds as well. Additionally, placing a couple of layers of newspaper around your plants and then adding several inches of mulch will further discourage weed growth and definitely help conserve moisture. Conserving water and making your plants happy is definitely a good thing!

Also, the Master Gardeners publish a yearly calendar that is filled with information, advice, and resources for the home gardener. Our calendar (available at local nurseries) features water-wise gardening tips, articles, plants, and lots of resources for additional information.

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