HOW TO GARDEN IN A drought

California is in a drought and that means that we need to be careful with every drop of water that we use, particularly outdoors. Here’s a guide to how to help your landscape survive the drought.

GET EFFICIENT
- Introduce drip irrigation
- Invest in a smart controller
- Water less frequently, but longer and close to plant roots
- Redirect downspouts to capture rainwater and direct it to garden areas

PRIORITIZE YOUR LANDSCAPE
1. Vegetables & Fruits Get Priority
   - They help feed your family.
2. Water-Wise Plants & Shade Trees
   - Water-wise plants use little or no water once established. Shade trees help keep plants cool and less thirsty.
3. Thirsty Plants – Lawn, High-Water-Use & Container Plants
   - These plants are the lowest on the priority list. If you have to cut back, start here.

USE MULCH
- There are many benefits using mulch in your landscape.
- Retain moisture: Less watering needed and grow healthier plants.
- Moderates temperature: Cool soil in the summer and warm soil in the winter.
- Decomposes nutrients: Enrich soil and better soil quality.
- Discourages weeds: Keep weeds away and reduce maintenance.

CAN I PLANT?
- Check with your local water agency and if you can water at least two times a week, you can plant water-wise plants and shade trees. This is not the time to install new lawn or thirsty, non-California friendly plants.

RECYCLE INDOOR WATER OUTDOORS!
- Recycle water you are using indoors by capturing what otherwise might go down the drain and use it on plants.
- Put a bucket in your shower
- Use cooled cooking water
- Wash your fruits & veggies over a bucket
- Keep a pitcher next to the sink and empty water glasses in it

For more tips on reducing water use, visit saveourH2O.org!