



Strategies for Using Less Water in the Landscape

Lori Palmquist, CID, CIC, CLWM, CLIA, QWEL

Email: support@loripalmquist.com

Websites: <https://www.loripalmquist.com>, <https://puddle-stompers.com>

Mindset!





Photo courtesy of Jeni Webber + Associates, Berkeley, CA





- 1. Lower the water needs of the landscape**
- 2. Leverage alternative water sources**
- 3. Employ cutting-edge strategies**

1. Lower the water needs of
the landscape

Landscape conversion rebates



2. Leverage alternative water sources

Order of water source preference

1. Rainwater
 1. Passive capture by the landscape itself
 2. Barrels, tanks, and cisterns
2. Recovered water
 1. From the house – repurposed water
 2. Greywater – drought-resilient source
 3. Recycled water from water purveyor, sanitary district or city
3. Potable water – last resort
 1. Piped in from public supply
 2. Well on the property



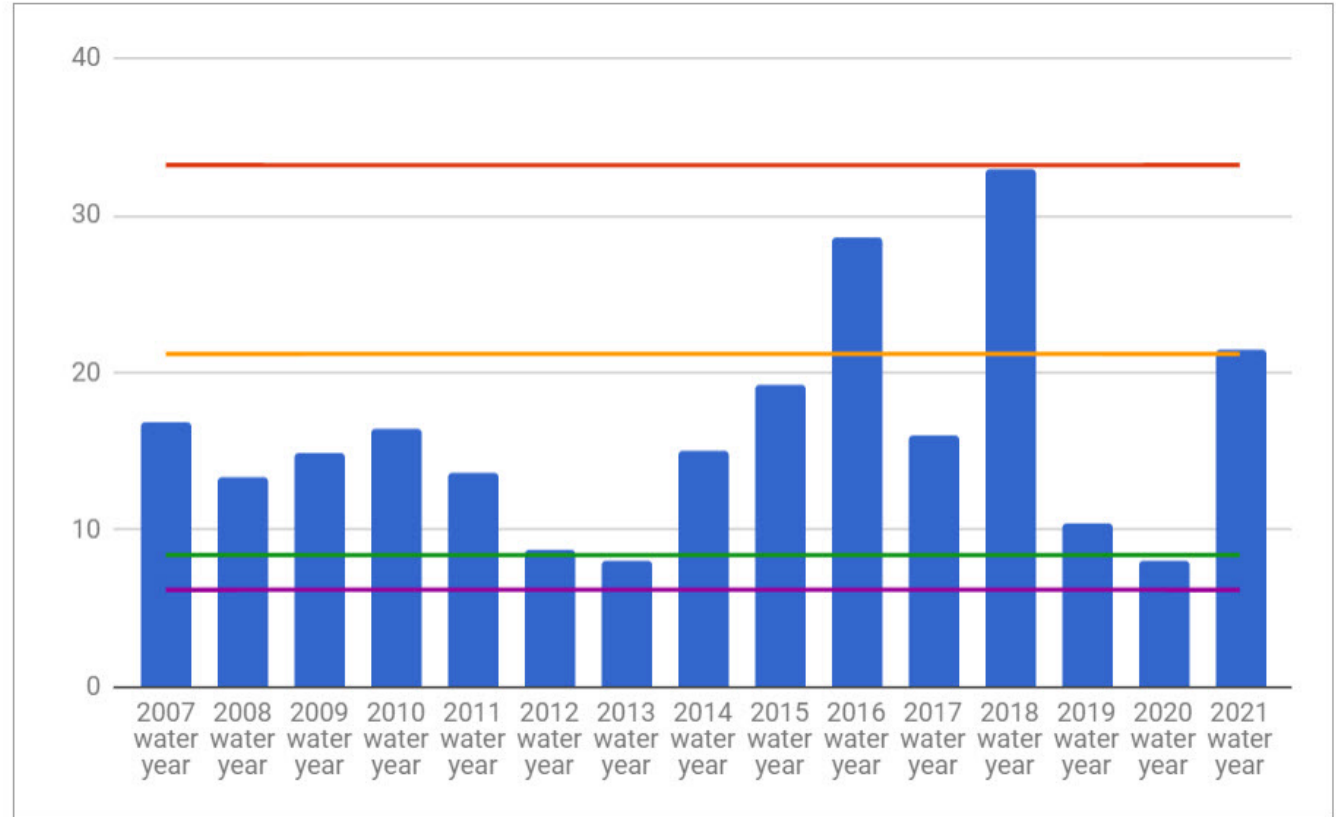
California is a low-water state

High water

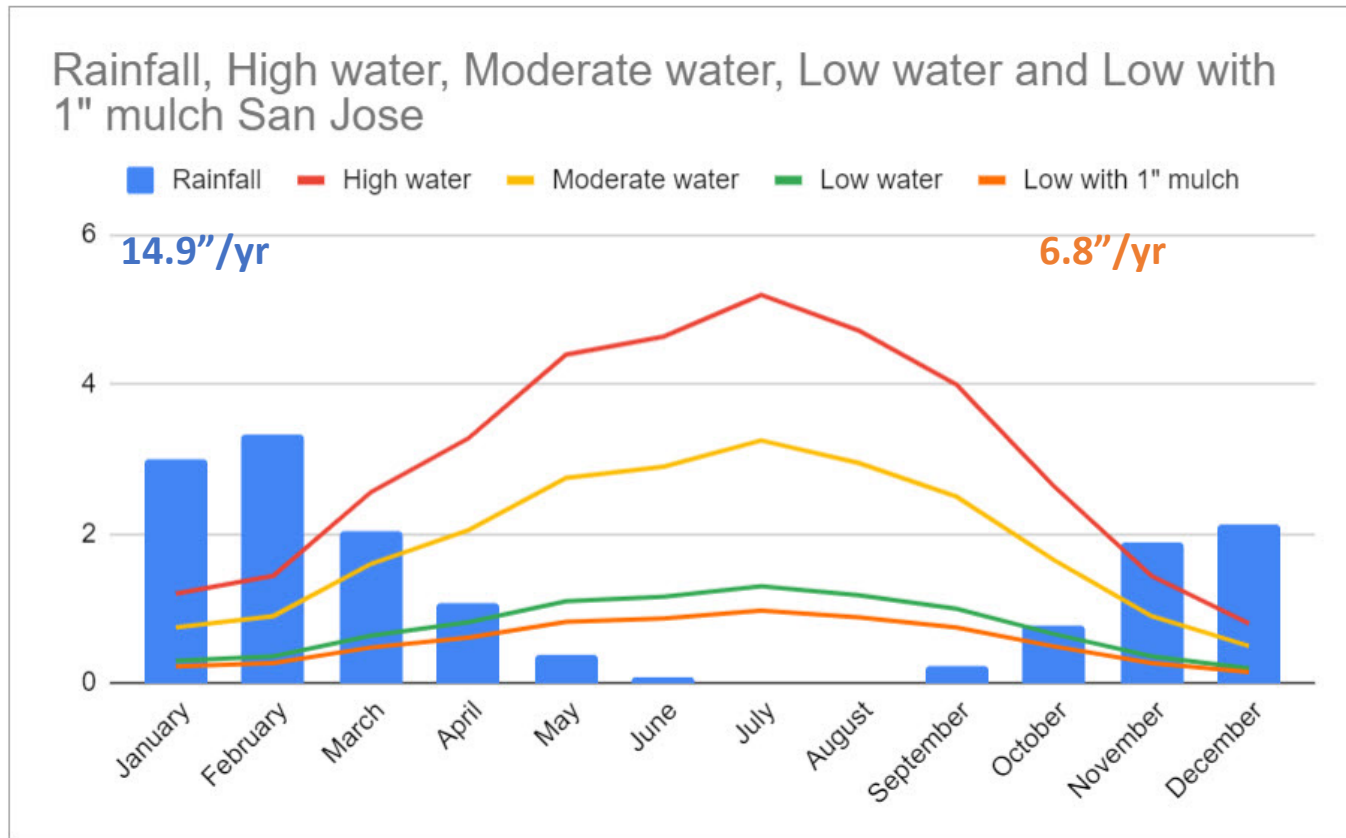
Moderate water

Low water

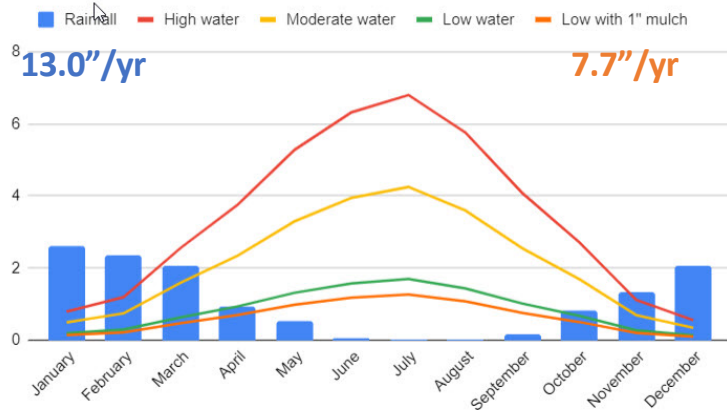
Low water/mulch



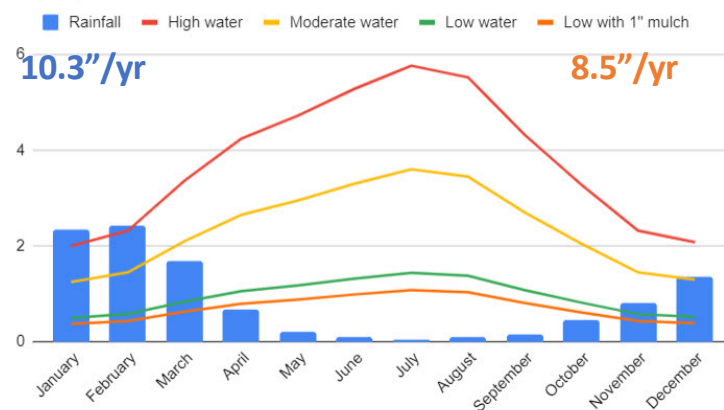
Don't drain the rain – Plant it!



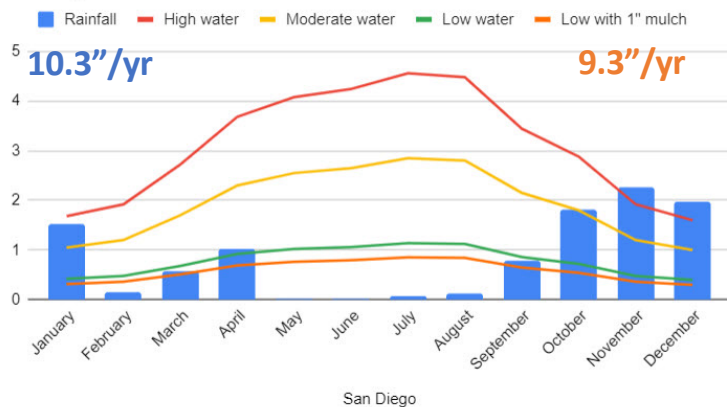
Monthly Rainfall and Plant Water Needs - Merced



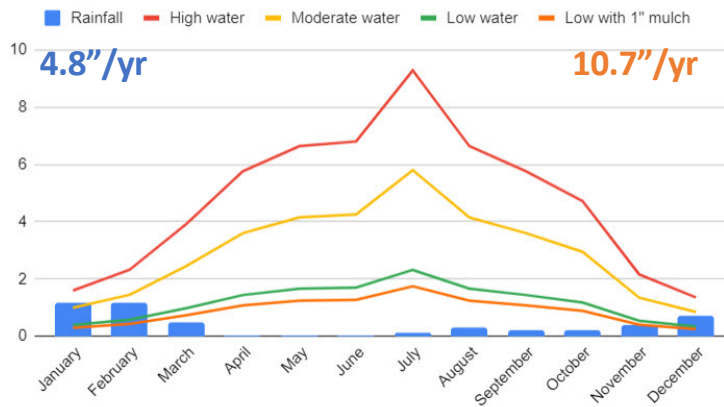
Monthly Rainfall and Plant Water Needs - Riverside



Monthly Rainfall and Plant Water Needs - San Diego



Monthly Rainfall and Plant Water Needs - Palm Springs



Water storage



Mulch is the lid on the landscape!



detain the rain

Contours for **Rain Capture**

© Paul Herzog, 2018

Photo courtesy of Watershed Approach to Landscape Design publication, APLD

5 Strategies for Using Less Water

1. Water all plants as if they were low-water-need plants
2. Stretch out watering days to drive roots of plants and trees deeper
3. Use the Valley Water Scheduler to adjust the irrigation schedule monthly
4. Install a smart controller
5. Use soil moisture sensor to control irrigation frequency

Water all plants as low



How much water do plants need?

How much water?

What California city?

Antioch

What time frame?

Weekly in August

What plant?

Moderate water in sun .6

What is the width of the plant?

6 feet

Calculate

**Water need: 15 gallons per
week in August**

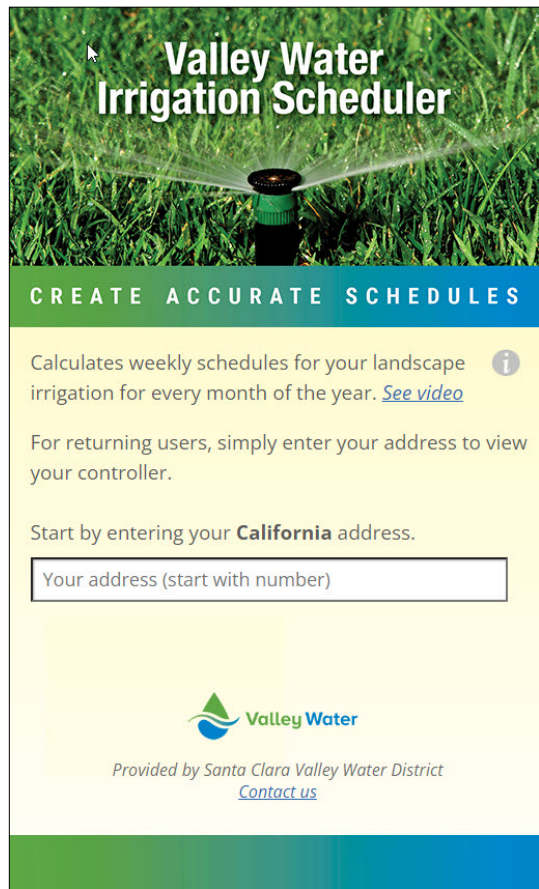
- Any incorporated CA city
- Any time frame
- Any plant material
- Various sizes of plants and planted areas

[Waterwonk.us/how-much](https://waterwonk.us/how-much)

Smart controllers can save a LOT of water!



Free scheduling web app



Valley Water Irrigation Scheduler


CREATE ACCURATE SCHEDULES

Calculates weekly schedules for your landscape irrigation for every month of the year. [See video](#)

For returning users, simply enter your address to view your controller.

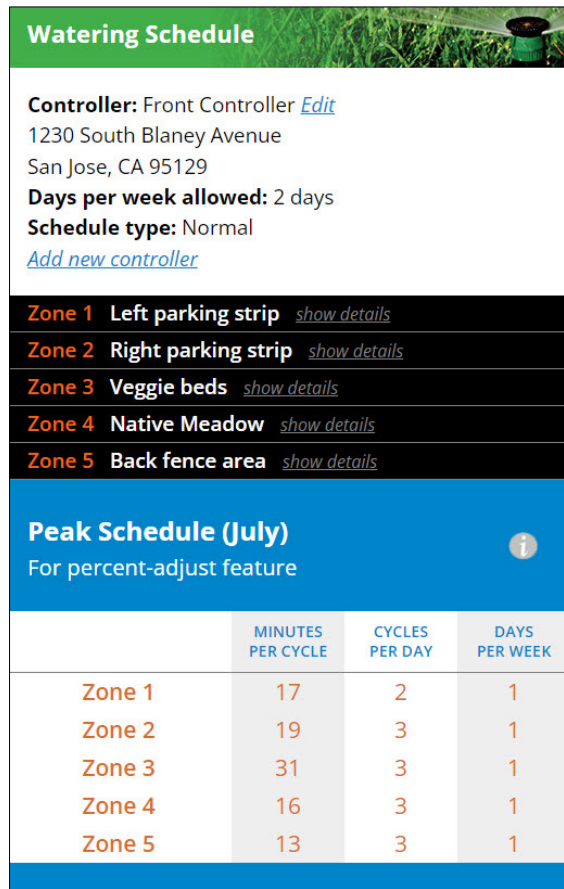
Start by entering your **California** address.

Your address (start with number)

 **Valley Water**

Provided by Santa Clara Valley Water District
[Contact us](#)

<https://ValleyWaterScheduler.com>



Watering Schedule

Controller: Front Controller [Edit](#)
1230 South Blaney Avenue
San Jose, CA 95129
Days per week allowed: 2 days
Schedule type: Normal
[Add new controller](#)

Zone 1 Left parking strip [show details](#)

Zone 2 Right parking strip [show details](#)

Zone 3 Veggie beds [show details](#)

Zone 4 Native Meadow [show details](#)

Zone 5 Back fence area [show details](#)

Peak Schedule (July)
For percent-adjust feature

	MINUTES PER CYCLE	CYCLES PER DAY	DAYS PER WEEK
Zone 1	17	2	1
Zone 2	19	3	1
Zone 3	31	3	1
Zone 4	16	3	1
Zone 5	13	3	1

Adjust irrigation schedule monthly

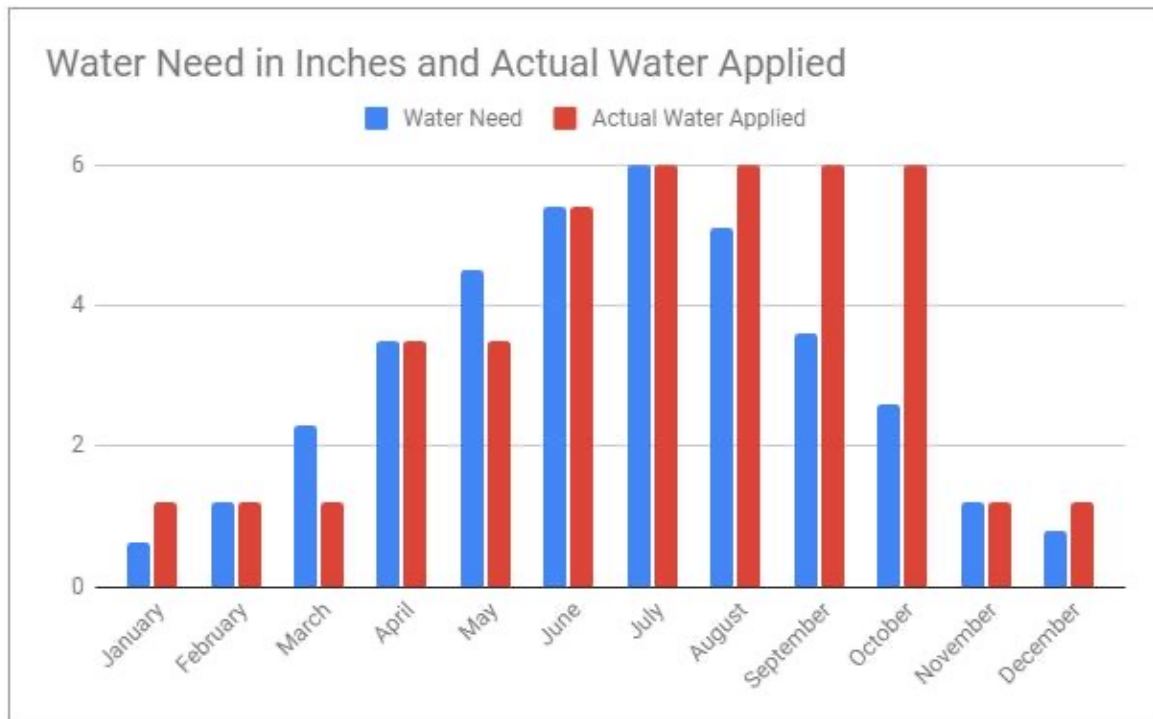
For every 1,000 square feet of landscape in SJ:

August: 1 extra inch – 620 gallons wasted

September: 2.4 extra inches – 1,488 gallons wasted

October: 3.5 extra inches – 2,170 gallons wasted

Total wasted: 4,278 gallons



5. Use soil moisture sensors



Photos courtesy of Hunter Industries, Inc.

Questions?
Comments?

Let's talk!

