

Garden Wise TV Episode 8: Get to Know Your H₂O (33:05)



Do you know where your water comes from? In this episode of Garden Wise, our host Becky Davis takes us on a journey across Santa Barbara County to learn about the many sources of water used in our community. We then learn how to use this precious resource efficiently to maintain healthy landscapes.

In the first segment, we meet with water experts from the City and County of Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara County has a diverse water supply portfolio and each district uses a different mix of supply sources. North County relies heavily on groundwater and imported State water. In the South County, Lake Cachuma makes up 35% of the water supply. There are additional reservoirs used by select cities. For example, Montecito draws water from the Jameson Reservoir and the City of Santa Barbara uses water from the Gibraltar Reservoir.

Currently, Lake Cachuma is the second lowest it's been since its construction. The lowest was during the last major drought in 1989. In times of drought, the South County relies more on groundwater. Both counties also receive State water, which has a direct pipeline in to Lake Cachuma. About 46 acre feet per day flow into the reservoir, yet it is estimated that half of that is lost due to natural evaporation (1 acre foot is equivalent to approximately 326,000 gallons).

Droughts are common in semi-arid climates like Santa Barbara, which is why it is important to always conserve water. According to Acting Water Resources Manager for the City of Santa Barbara, Joshua Haggmark, if the community can reach its 20% conservation goal, then we will have enough water for next year. Remember, saving water starts with you! For more information and water saving actions, visit WaterWiseSB.org.



In the next segment, Cathie Paré, Water Resources Specialist from the City of Santa Barbara shows us how to use the online Landscape Watering Calculator, found on WaterWiseSB.org. By answering



questions about your landscape, plants, and irrigation, this tool estimates how many minutes per week you should be watering. Cathie takes us through the process to answer some of the harder questions, including how to test if your soil is clay, sandy, loam or clay loam. Cathie also shares her knowledge on different sprinkler types – did you know that pop up sprinklers put out almost 2 gallons of water each minute?

If you have ever had trouble adjusting your watering timer, then be sure to watch this segment! Cathie shows us step by step how to adjust the watering time and make sure the irrigation system is only working on days we want it to water. According to Cathie, fine tuning your watering timer is the key last step. If your landscape is very green and lush, you can cut down on watering time. If it's looking dried up, increase the time. Keep in mind that each minute on a lawn zone runs 10-12 gallons of water! To learn more about how to use the Landscape Watering Calculator or your Watering % Adjust, visit WaterWiseSB.org!



In the next segment, Karen Christman, a Certified Arborist from Arbor Services, Inc. tells us how to care for trees in a drought. The first step is to find out what species your tree is. Next, learn your tree's root zone and water needs.

The root system generally extends to the edge of the canopy, and this is the zone where we want to water. Karen also shows us how to check for leaf or branch dieback, which is an indication that a tree is not getting enough water. Strategic watering is critical to maintaining healthy trees, and by properly watering and mulching, we can all conserve water. Irrigating early in the morning or late at night can reduce evaporation and save water. If you are interested in getting free mulch, contact the County of Santa Barbara, Marborg, nurseries and your local arborists!

In the next leg of our journey, we visit the newly revamped landscape at Arcadia Studio. Principal Landscape Architect Derrik Eichelberger tells us of their vision for a more inspiring and drought tolerant landscape in front of their building. This vision was made a reality with the help of Richard Golden of



Golden Landscape. Arcadia Studio now showcases a modern, aesthetically-pleasing, and water wise landscape. In addition to saving tons of money and water, Derrik says they are getting more business from customers who also want to transform their landscapes! Check out WaterWiseSB.org for more information on sustainable landscaping and be sure to check for rebates!

Time for another case of *Crimes Against Horticulture* with Billy Goodnick, whose mission is to promote beautiful, useful, sustainable landscapes. Our case this time involves hedges in front of a wall pruned to the theme "meatballs and Lego blocks." The crime: too many large plants in too small a space. So how do we prevent this in the future? According to Detective Goodnick, the best solution is to plant a couple large growing vines and let them spread on the wall completely. Remember to choose plants wisely when you have limited space. If you need help finding the right plants, visit WaterWiseSb.org.

Remember, you are the agent of change. Visit WaterWiseSB.org for more information on how to be a water wise citizen. Keep it green, Santa Barbara!