



The Inside Scoop on the:

## Lawn Replacement Program

Need a change in perspective? How about a new landscape!?!



Perhaps you've been considering replacing your lawn with water wise landscaping since the program was first introduced in 2014. Now is the time! Rebates are available now through June 30th for replacing healthy green lawns watered with potable city water.

### Will I Actually Save Water?

Great question! Not all of our Lawn Replacement Program participants save water, but most do. In fact, we recently did a water savings analysis looking at the last 2 years for the 2014 LRP participants. On average they are saving 20,000 gallons per year, and several are saving over 100,000 gallons of water each summer!

You can achieve the greatest water savings by choosing water wise plants, site appropriate irrigation, and using a personalized irrigation schedule.

### FREE Irrigation Evaluation!

Did you know that you can get a **personalized irrigation schedule** for FREE! Simply call 541-552-2421 to set up your appointment.



Photo by STEPHANIE GREGA; The Standard-Speaker

## Mulch Madness

I'm not much of a basketball fanatic, but I am a garden nut. So, while everyone is cheering for their team, I'm in the garden preparing the soil, removing the first round of weeds, and applying a good layer of mulch. Mulch is one of my greatest allies. It keeps weeds down, builds soil structure, and saves water!

### How mulch water can I save?

According to Neil Bell, an Oregon State University Extension Horticulture Specialist, "[a layer of mulch can cut down evaporation by as much as 75 percent.](#)" However, the actual savings depends on several factors, including the type of mulch, plant location, and how you water. It's best to apply water UNDER the mulch. This is usually done with drip system irrigation.



Learn about how to install drip irrigation from [This Old House](#).

Photo Courtesy of This Old House

To save the most water, prepare the soil ahead of time by aerating, adding soil amendments, and watering well. This is also a good time to ensure your drip system is working correctly. Replace emitters that are clogged or malfunctioning. Then add your choice of mulch.

### THE FACTS ON LEAKS

<p><b>10</b> percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day</p>	<p>A leaky faucet dripping at the rate of one drop per second can waste more than <b>3,000 gallons</b> per year</p>
<p><b>Did you know?</b> Minor water leaks account for more than</p> <p><b>1</b> trillion gallons of wasted water each year and is equal to annual household water use in</p>	<p>A shower leaking at <b>10 Drips</b> per minute wastes more than <b>500</b> gallons per year</p>
<p><b>11</b> million homes</p>	<p><b>REPAIR</b> leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary</p>
<p>Replace old toilets with WaterSense labeled models &amp; save</p> <p><b>13,000</b> gallons of water savings for the average family</p>	<p>Homeowners can save</p> <p>10 percent on their water bills</p> <p>Look for WaterSense labeled EPA Certified</p>

## Fix a Leak Week: March 20-26

Leaks may seem small, but they add up. I recently spoke with a customer whose leaky toilet cost them 2,500 cubic feet (18,700 gallons) in one month! Taking the time to [find and fix leaks](#) when you find them, pays off. Check out these helpful links and videos on how to find and fix leaks!

[How to Find and Fix Leaks](#)

[Fixing Leaks Around the Home](#)

Stop by our office at 51 Winburn Way to pick up free dye tablets to check your toilet for leaks, as well as free low flow aerators and showerheads. [Check out the REBATES for new 1.28 gpf toilets!](#)

City of Ashland  
Water Conservation  
51 Winburn Way  
Ashland, OR 97520



[AshlandSavesWater.org](http://AshlandSavesWater.org)

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### Mulch Madness

#### How mulch should I apply?

Aim for a layer 2 – 6 inches thick. The proper depth depends on the type of mulch material you choose, as well as the type and location of your plants. Mulch can be organic: made from plant materials such as bark, pine needles, or wood chips, or inorganic: including gravel or crushed rock. Coarser mulch, such as bark or wood chips, is usually applied in thicker layers.



Organic vs Inorganic

#### When do I mulch?

Now is the time! Mulching in spring helps you stay ahead of the weeds. Also, by mulching now you can make the most of spring rains. The mulch will absorb water from the rain, meaning you won't have to water as much in early summer.



Photo credit: Libby VanWhy, et

#### Mulching is a slam dunk for the garden!

To learn more, read these articles:

[Mulches for Enhanced, Low-Cost, Low-Maintenance Landscapes](#) by Texas A&M, AgriLife Extension Service.

[Prevent weeds, improve soil and save water by mulching your garden](#) by OSU Extension Service.

[Magic of Mulch](#) by GardenSoft

### The Inside Scoop continued...

## Lawn Replacement Program



#### Wait! What? That Qualifies???

Several of our lawn replacement program participants chose to replace their lawn with artificial turf. Advancements in artificial turf means your new "lawn" stays greener, softer, and more lawn-like for longer. Just imagine... your own putting green! How about a bocce ball court? It's been done! The possibilities are endless!

Did you know that replacing **pools or ponds** also qualifies for a **lawn replacement rebate**?

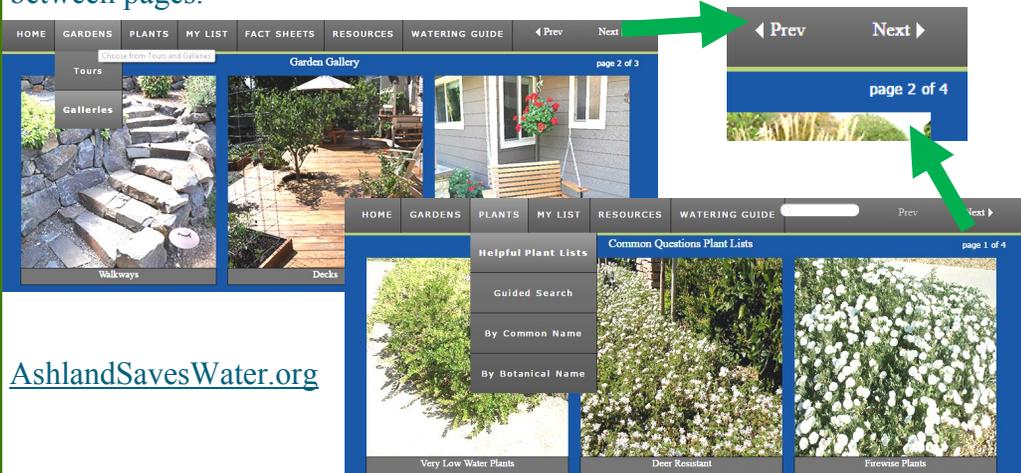
#### What about the Weeds?

One of the most common comments I get from people considering the lawn replacement program is that they don't want to deal with all the weeding and landscape maintenance. I usually remind them that healthy green lawns also require maintenance. You have to mow regularly, aerate, fertilize, and ensure your sprinkler system is properly working. A well installed landscape is similar. Weeding seems to be the biggest concern, but with the right amount of mulch and a little bit of monthly maintenance weeds shouldn't get out of hand.

## WATER WISE LANDSCAPING

Ashland's Water Wise Landscaping website is a great reference for planning your new landscape. There are garden tours and galleries with lots of pictures of completed landscapes, as well as helpful plant lists. The helpful plants lists include categories such as deer resistant, firewise, and pollinator friendly plants, as well as ground covers, shrubs, trees, and many more.

With your cursor, hover over the top menu choices, which will drop down a list of options. Don't forget to use the "Prev" and "Next" buttons to move between pages.



[AshlandSavesWater.org](http://AshlandSavesWater.org)

#### Tell us more about your needs!

Please continue to **send us your ideas** and questions. And, please send us photos of you enjoying our most precious resource: Water!

Your Water Conservation Team,



Julie Smitherman & Stephanie Danyi

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