







# DROUGHT IRRIGATION GUIDE

This guide is intended to help Morongo Basin residents apply only the amount of water needed by plants, no more. It shows the water requirements for optimal growth based on historical climate data for Joshua Tree (79.34" of evapotranspiration).

**To help reduce water use during California’s historic drought, customers are urged to reduce irrigation by 28%.** Most desert-adapted plants are drought tolerant and will survive with less irrigation. Try reducing the quantities below by multiplying the weekly water requirement by .72 and watch for signs of stress. Consider reducing the landscaped area by removing thirsty species or supplement with graywater or captured rainwater.

Estimated Plant Water Requirement, gallons per week						
	Shrubs and groundcovers (4 ft canopy)			Large shrubs and trees (20 ft canopy)		
	 Low water use	 Moderate water use	 High water use	 Low water use	 Moderate water use	 High water use
January	0.9	2.2	3.5	22.8	56.9	91.0
February	1.5	3.9	6.2	40.3	100.8	161.2
March	2.2	5.5	8.9	58.0	145.1	232.1
April	3.1	7.8	12.5	82.0	204.9	327.9
May	3.9	9.6	15.4	101.0	252.4	403.8
June	4.5	11.2	17.9	116.9	292.3	467.7
July	4.3	10.9	17.4	113.6	283.9	454.3
August	3.9	9.6	15.4	101.0	252.4	403.8
September	3.4	8.4	13.5	88.4	221.0	353.6
October	2.2	5.5	8.9	58.0	145.1	232.1
November	1.3	3.1	5.0	32.8	82.0	131.3
December	0.8	1.9	3.1	20.2	50.4	80.7

*Help meet our conservation requirement by simply reducing irrigation time by 28%.*

To calculate how long to water with a drip system, divide the gallon ratings of your emitters into the gallons per week from the table, then multiply by 60 minutes. For example, a 2 gallon emitter divided into 3 gallons per week, times 60 minutes equals 90 minutes required to apply 3 gallons to the plant ( $3 \div 2 \times 60 = 90$ ). Large shrubs and trees will require more emitters spaced around the plant canopy.

New landscapes will require shorter, more frequent watering, while larger mature plants will need longer, less frequent watering. It will be important to develop your irrigation schedule and allow it to run for a few days, and then check the soil moisture in the root zone just before the next irrigation is scheduled. You should also observe if water begins to puddle during irrigation. If it does, divide the watering time into two cycles so that water does not run off.

