



## Landscape tips to prepare your landscape for summer's sizzle

Don't let our current spring-like weather fool you. Summer is just around the corner, and the long, hot, dry conditions of summer can tax the endurance of many plants. For plant success this summer season, follow these tips:

- **Adjust Watering Schedules** – Water needs will increase as the temperature rises. Your city water conservation office has a free landscape watering guide available that provides scheduling guidelines, or go to [wateruseitwisely.com](http://wateruseitwisely.com) for an interactive version of the landscape watering guide.
- **Check Irrigation Systems** – Replace clogged drip emitters and repair leaks. Increase emitter numbers and adjust emitter placement on trees. For sprinklers, place cups or cans out into your lawn, turn your system on and check for uneven coverage to determine problem areas.
- **Mulch Plant Roots** – Replenish organic mulches around your plants each year to improve soil, reduce moisture loss and keep roots cool during the summer months. Keep mulch away from plant trunk or main stem and cover the mulch with granite if you prefer.
- **Weed Removal** –Weeds can compete with landscape plants for water. Remove the weeds by hand or check with your local nursery for safe weed sprays.
- **Fertilize Non-Native Plants** – Follow product label recommendations to fertilize established non-native plants. Native plants usually do not require fertilizers and generally grow better without them.
- **Prune Sparingly** –Prune plants only when necessary. Low tree limbs or branches keep plants shaded and cooler in summer.
- **Replant Lost Plants** – If plants have died or are not performing well, plant new ones before the summer heat sets in. Be sure to select native or well-adapted plants to ensure future success.



Proper plant care and watering will keep your landscape healthy, and looking beautiful all year long.

*by Donna DiFrancesco, Conservation Specialist, City of Mesa*