



WATER CONSERVATION — A HIGH PRIORITY

With the current Southern California drought affecting us all, Laguna Woods Village's Garden Centers 1 and 2 have put a plan in motion to conserve water.

Both garden centers now feature shutoff valves that are programmed to completely restrict water access at night when the facilities are closed. In doing so, staff hopes to stop undiagnosed leaks that would otherwise run all night, wasting water



unnecessarily, as well as eliminate waterline breaks that might occur when no one is available to address them.

Going forward, water for both garden centers will shut off at 8 p.m. and turn back on the next morning at 6 a.m. Staff will adjust shutoff times accordingly to the seasons and daylight saving time.

Gardeners who have timers scheduled to run water during the shutoff time will need to adjust their timers.

WINTER GARDENING



TIPS For a healthier plot

Remove old leaves and debris from all beds.

Prune roses and fruit trees such as apple, apricot and cherry. Cut off dead wood, branches that cross and thin, old and spindly wood to encourage as much fruit growth as possible.

Apply a layer of mulch around plants, leaving a clearance of several inches between mulch and the plant stems or trunks of the trees. Ideally, apply mulch to your garden twice a year. Mulch retains soil moisture, regulates soil temperature, suppresses weeds and contributes to soil replenishment and natural soil health. For these reasons, it's essential to apply mulch in colder months.

Schedule irrigation at a time that discourages fungal growth. Watering early in the morning means that fungus that prefer a dark, wet environment won't have the ability to grow. Also remember to stop irrigation during a storm.

WINTER GREENS

Regardless of where you live, count on these crops to withstand cooler temps and frost.

BROCCOLI Thrives in cool temperatures and has been known to survive temperatures as low as 28 degrees Fahrenheit.



COLLARDS are the most cold-resistant plant of any in the cold-hardy Brassica family. Can withstand winter temperatures down to 5 degrees Fahrenheit and usually come through the cold even more flavorful.



GREEN ONIONS are as hardy as they come. Frost, freezing temperatures and snow will not kill them.



KALE can withstand extreme cold.

SPINACH grows slowly through the winter but always bounces back in early spring.

SWISS CHARD is very cold tolerant

and can survive dips to 15 degrees Fahrenheit without any protection.



BRUSSELS SPROUTS will withstand frost and can be harvested until a hard freeze strikes. The best-quality sprouts are produced during sunny days with light frosts at night.

FRIENDLY

- **Keep** pathways, common areas and plots weed free
- **Harvest** all produce to discourage rats and other wildlife
- **Remove** all vines and dead plants from past season
- **Remove** trees from garden plots; remove vegetable plants from tree plots
- **Repair** old/falling down fencing
- **Be** courteous and respectful to your neighbors

- **Watch** water use. Don't spray down walkways or wash your car/golf cart. Ensure water is shut off before you leave; check irrigation timers so they run properly. Do not overwater.
- **Report** water issues/leaks to staff or Security
- **Keep** your plot tidy; eliminate debris and clutter
- **Fold** up your umbrella when not in use
- **Do not** shade neighbors' plots
- **Care** for the tools you use; return them to storage after use

REMINDERS