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WATER DISTRICTS OFFER FREE WATER WISE GARDENING WORKSHOPS

Encinitas, CA - The Olivenhain Municipal Water District (District), the Santa Fe Irrigation District and San Dieguito Water District are holding free gardening workshops for residents in the three agencies' service areas. Beginning September 6, 2006 a workshop will be held every Wednesday in September from 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at the Rancho Santa Fe (RSF) Garden Club.

When it comes to planting, many homeowners think only of spring; however in much of the country, fall is the ideal time to plant cool-season veggies, turf grasses, perennials, trees and shrubs. Fall officially begins with the autumnal equinox in late September, and for most folks September and October is an ideal time for fall planting.

Why is Fall planting good for plants? In the fall, the warm soil encourages root growth. Roots continue to grow through the winter. In early spring, roots begin new growth or continue to develop at a faster rate, and top growth begins. While the same plant planted in spring gets a slow start due to cool soils, those planted in fall are becoming well established. When summer finally arrives, the Fall-planted plant is far better equipped to deal with heat and drought, largely due to its well-established root system.

Of course, there are plenty of other good reasons to plant in the fall such as rainfall, cooler weather and fewer pest and disease problems. In addition, many plants are on sale at nurseries, which makes fall planting nice for your wallet too!

The free workshops include:

Landscape Design provides a general overview of how a landscape architect approaches a design for a homeowner. Themes to be covered include "Landscape As Part of Your Living Space," "How to Develop a Landscape Plan," & "Plant Selection." Participants will learn to organize their thoughts and resources to develop a landscape plan that works best for them. Landscape plans and photos will be shown. **Wednesday, September 6, 2006**

California Friendly Ornamental Plants covers 25 common & useful plants that grow well in San Diego. California friendly plants are beautiful, water saving & many are fire resistant. Brochures will be available that include photos, descriptions & useful information. **Wednesday, September 13, 2006**

Home Sprinkler Systems looks at major design and maintenance principles of both overhead sprinklers and drip irrigation. Discover the right system for your home. **Wednesday, September 20, 2006**

Watering & Fertilizing covers topics such as: "How Long Should I Run My Sprinklers," "How Does Soil Affect Plant Growth and Watering," "Irrigation Control Clock Programming," and "Fertilizers."
Wednesday, September 27, 2006

MORE

The RSF Garden Club is located at 17025 Avenida de Acacias in Rancho Santa Fe. Workshops are sponsored by the Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Santa Fe Irrigation District, San Dieguito Water District, RSF Garden Club and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. To reserve your seat, call Teresa Chase at (760) 632-4641.

Currently, the District includes over 48 square miles, and serves a population of approximately 58,000 residents. The District includes portions of the cities of Encinitas, Carlsbad, and Solana Beach as well as the communities of Olivenhain, Leucadia, Elfin Forest, Rancho Santa Fe, Fairbanks Ranch, Santa Fe Valley and 4S Ranch. For more information about the Olivenhain Municipal Water District visit www.omwd.com.

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