



# Solano County Water Agency Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **Does my lawn need to be alive to receive a rebate?**

No. Lawns may be dead or alive at time of application.

### **Can I receive a rebate for installing decks, patios, and other structures?**

Decks, impermeable patios and other structures may be installed as part of the project but must be excluded from the rebate footage. Paving stones and brick patios with permeable grouting are allowed, and the footage represented with this type of patio may be included in the rebated footage.

### **Are plants required in my conversion area?**

The Program requires 50% of the converted area to include low-water-use, drought-tolerant or California native plants at maturity. High water use and non-native plants are not eligible.

### **Is there an approved plant list I can use to plan my conversion project?**

The Water Use Classification of Landscape Species list (<http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS>) may be used as a resource guide. Consult your local plant nursery or Department of Water Resources' website at [www.water.ca.gov/turf/LandScapingmaps](http://www.water.ca.gov/turf/LandScapingmaps) for additional guidance.

### **What type of ground cover is approved to be eligible for a rebate?**

All mulched areas must have a minimum of three (3) inches deep of qualifying mulch, including: chipped or shredded bark. Rock, gravel, or weed free straw is also eligible. If a weed barrier is used below the mulch, it must be permeable to air and water. Although compost, leaves, and grass clippings are important for providing valuable soil structure, nutrients, and water retention, these materials do not qualify as mulch for this program as they decompose quickly and do not adequately reduce soil evaporation.



### **Is the rebate available for irrigation replacement?**

Rebate eligibility requires the installation of sustainable water efficient landscaping AND proper irrigation replacement or retro fit. Irrigation replacement alone is not eligible for a rebate in this Program. Irrigation changes and upgrades must be completed in the approved project area for rebate eligibility.

### **What type of irrigation system do I need to use?**

The Program requires drip irrigation, bubbler, micro-spray irrigation, or hand watering.



### **Are raised beds or vegetable gardens eligible if lawn is removed?**

Yes, food-producing trees, shrubs, vines and perennial plants are allowed in place of lawn.

### **Do I need to use any specific method of lawn removal?**

This Program does not specify the method of lawn removal. However, SCWA strongly encourages the use of sheet mulching techniques to replace lawn. Please visit <http://lawntogarden.org/how-to-sheet-mulch> for more information and tutorials. You have the option to complete the project yourself or hire a contractor or landscaper to complete the project for you.

### **Is Artificial/Synthetic Turf or Lawn Allowed?**

Artificial/Synthetic turf or lawn is not allowed in the rebated portion of the converted landscape. This program has two primary goals, 1) to promote landscape water use efficiency and 2) to support the installation of healthy, sustainable landscapes that will enhance our local environment by providing habitat for local fauna and promoting healthy soils.