



# Solano County Water Agency

## Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program

### FAQs

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

Yes, your lawn must be green, well-irrigated, and maintained turf grass. Turf grass that is dead, has less than 50% living and maintained turf grass (green), or dying will not be eligible for a rebate. Bare dirt, weeds, and ill-maintained yards will not be considered eligible for a rebate. Yards must be, at minimum, 50 green to be considered eligible for a rebate.

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

Short answer, No. Decks, impermeable patios and other structures may be installed as part of the project but must be excluded from the rebate footage.

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

The Program requires a **minimum of 50% plant coverage at maturity or three (3) plants per 100 square feet** of the converted area. The plants must be non-invasive, low-water-use, drought-tolerant or California native plants. Exceptions can be made for fruit or vegetable bearing plants. All plants must be planted in the ground or in a garden box. Potted plants are not eligible for the rebate program.

**High water use, annuals, and non-native invasive 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 [Spruce Up Your Garden with Water-Wise Plants! - Save Our Water, California](#) for additional guidance.

#### **Other helpful plant guides:**

- Solano County Water Agency Suggested Plant Guide: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:63a2c58d-be4b-48b8-b47d-3a8eb1f82fab>
- UC Davis Arboretum All Stars: <https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum-all-stars>
- California Native Plant Society-Solano County Plant Guide: <https://jepson.cnps.org/newsletter/past-announcements/10-announcements/91-top-native-plant-list-for-solano-gardens-is-out>
- Calscape Garden Planner: <https://gardenplanner.calscape.org/>
- California Native Grasslands Association: [California's New Front Yard](#)

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### 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 are also eligible. 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 the lawn is removed?

Yes, food-producing trees, shrubs, vines and perennial plants are acceptable in place of lawn. However, there still must exist a form of ground covering surrounding the raised garden beds, fruit bearing trees, etc. The ground cover must be an eligible material such as mulch or rock. Bare dirt will not be approved.

### 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.**

**Artificial turf (aka synthetic turf or synthetic lawn) is a plastic-based material that does not promote the program goals or sustainability.**





**Examples of turf areas that are **INELIGIBLE** for the Water Efficient Landscape Rebate Program**







Examples of turf areas that are **ELIGIBLE** for the Water Efficient Landscape Rebate Program



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