

# Today

## Drought Update 20 Percent Required Cutback Continues

While the late winter storms helped ease some fears, the drought is far from over. What we have on hand in Folsom Reservoir and in snowmelt runoff must supply us until the rains (hopefully) return next November.

Unfortunately, we don't have control over Folsom Lake storage policies. The reservoir is part of a statewide water supply system, which means that both state and federal agencies can decide to release water from the reservoir to meet downstream needs. Because the water that flows into the reservoir comes from Sierra Nevada snowmelt and the snowpack water content was just 17 percent of normal at its height this year, we each need to stay on a tight water budget and be mindful of every drop used.

With that in mind, here are some simple, easy ways to reduce your use by 20 percent:

**Check for leaks.** Leaky pipes, toilets, faucets, and sprinklers can waste hundreds of gallons a month.

**Cut back on outdoor irrigation,** which accounts for about 60 percent of a household's total use.

- Eliminate one irrigation cycle a week, or reduce each by two minutes.
- Water landscaping in the early morning or late at night.
- Install drip irrigation for trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetable gardens.
- Add two to three inches of mulch around trees and plants.

Know your use. You can track your home's water use at [Roseville.WaterInsight.com](http://Roseville.WaterInsight.com) and get personalized suggestions on how you can reach a 20 percent reduction. (Note: WaterInsight enrollment is currently available on a first-come, first-serve basis due to technology constraints.)

Schedule a free Water Wise House Call. We can help you identify ways to reduce indoor and outside water use. Call 774-5761 or sign up online at [roseville.ca.us/housecall](http://roseville.ca.us/housecall).

Making the 20 percent cut isn't hard to do. If we all do this little bit now, we hope to avoid the need for larger reductions later.



Find easy ways to save water - download the new Drought Resource Guide at [www.roseville.ca.us/drought](http://www.roseville.ca.us/drought)



Photo Credit: City of Sacramento

## Snowpack Water Content: What It Is, Why It Matters

News reports on the drought often share statistics on rainfall totals, snowfall amounts, snow depth and snowpack water content. While all four matter, it's the water content, also called the snow water equivalent (SWE), of the Sierra Nevada snowpack that many see as the most important drought indicator.

That's because the Sierra snowpack serves as California's largest storage reservoir, making up a third of the water used in most parts of the state. As the snowpack melts, water flows into our rivers and reservoirs, where it's stored and used until winter returns. While Sierra Nevada snow is usually heavy with water, lower snowfall totals combined with drier

snow this year to leave us with only 17 percent of normal snowpack water content. That means we're coming into the lean water months with very little in our summer water savings account. With no way to predict what next winter will bring, your 20 percent reduction is especially critical.

## Rate Reminder

The second of a two-part rate adjustment will begin appearing after June 30 on the water and wastewater portions of your Roseville utility bill. Solid waste rates remain the same. The 2.5 percent increase in water and 3 percent increase in sewer rates were unanimously approved by the Roseville City Council in April 2013 to cover unfunded regulatory mandates and rising energy, fuel and chemical costs. The average Roseville home can expect to see increases of about 79 cents for water and 90 cents for wastewater.





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## Recycling Tip: CRV Beverage Containers

It's true that the One Big Bin program means you don't have to separate your recyclables from the rest of your household trash. That doesn't mean you can't recycle items separately, however. In fact, the city has a number of drop-off locations for recyclables, including California Redemption Value (CRV) beverage containers. By dropping off your CRV containers, you reduce the city's recycling costs by eliminating the separation process. In addition, all revenue gained goes back into the solid waste division's operational budget, which helps us keep utility bills low.

Visit [www.roseville.ca.us/recycling](http://www.roseville.ca.us/recycling) for the recycling drop-off location nearest you.



## Fight Drought with a Free Water Wise House Call



If you haven't taken advantage of our Water Wise House Call program, now is the perfect time to schedule your free appointment. One of our water-use specialists will come to your home and analyze your indoor and outdoor water use. The specialist will perform a pressure test to identify leaks, check your plumbing fixtures and irrigation system, help you set up an irrigation schedule, and offer recommendations on ways to save, along with information on available rebates.

House calls can take less than an hour and are available weekdays. Call (916) 774-5761 to schedule your free Water Wise House Call today.

## Those Greens Are Green for Good Reason

If you've noticed that Roseville golf courses are green in midst of the drought, you'll be glad to know that we're not using our precious drinking water to irrigate them. Look closely and you'll see the purple pipes that carry recycled wastewater to the irrigation systems that keep certain golf courses, city parks, playgrounds, and median strips lush green. Thanks to the water recycling program we started in 1993, a good deal of the water that comes into Roseville is used twice before it leaves town.

## Pest of the Month: Natural Enemies

Many people apply pesticides to protect against white grubs (immature masked chafers commonly called June beetles) that create expanding dry spots in lawns. Rather than apply pesticides that kill pollinators and other beneficial insects, it's a good idea to first test the dry spot you suspect might be caused by grubs. Cut around the spot and see if you can lift it away. If you can easily pull up the sod and see grubs or other insects below, try applying beneficial nematodes before resorting to pesticides. You can buy these tiny worms at local nurseries and turn them loose on suspected grub infestations. The nematodes will seek out and destroy the grubs without harming earthworms or other beneficial organisms.

Learn more about controlling white grubs and other lawn pests on the UC Integrated Pest Management website at [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7476.html](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7476.html).



## Plant of the Month: Deer Grass "Muhlenbergia Rigens"

Plant this California native to add drama to your drought-tolerant landscape. Deer grass grows quickly reaching between four and six feet across with elegant plumes that rise two feet or more above the plant. You'll only need to give new plants regular water for the first month or so. Once established, deer grass is very drought tolerant, loves the heat and sun, and maintains its health in low temperatures, down to 15 degrees.