



2022 Theme and Background

Overall Theme: *WHEN IN DROUGHT...*

California is experiencing a severe drought, and the Governor is requesting Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use. It's time for everyone to do their part to conserve water to stretch our water supplies and to preserve our lakes and rivers.

That's why the 2022 Water Spots Video Contest theme is *When in Drought... take action to reduce water use.*

Here are some facts and actions you could use in your video:

FACT:

In the Sacramento region, most of the water we use daily goes on lawns and landscaping, and about 30 percent of that is lost due to overwatering and evaporation. There are lots of ways to save water at home, but conserving water outdoors can make the biggest difference of all.

ACTIONS:

1: Stress your lawn and save your trees:

Water one less day per week—saves 80 gallons per day. By skipping one sprinkler cycle per week you can achieve an instant water savings of 20 percent (for every 10 minutes that are currently scheduled).

Save your trees. As you limit landscape watering, take steps to protect your trees. Trees offer many benefits to people and wildlife, and are an investment one generation makes for the next. Lawn can turn golden and eventually recover. Trees, however, can be lost forever. You'll want to provide trees with extra water.

2: Check soil moisture before turning on sprinklers—saves 80 gallons of water per day. Research tells us that people often decide to water their yard just by looking at their plants or if the weather is hot and dry. The result is that oftentimes people overwater, applying more than their lawn and plants really need. The only way to know for sure is to check soil moisture with a moisture meter or by digging down with a hand shovel to check soil moisture.

3: Replace older sprinklers with more efficient rotary nozzles—saves 8 gallons of water per 1,000 square feet of yard per day. Replacing older sprinklers with high-efficiency rotary nozzles can improve your sprinkler system's efficiency by 30 percent while building a healthy lawn. Rotary nozzles slowly deliver multiple rotating streams of water, reducing water waste by applying water at a rate the soil

more easily absorbs. Many local water providers offer rebates for upgrading sprinklers and other irrigation equipment.

4: Upgrade to a WaterSense-labeled weather-based sprinkler timer—saves up to 100-150 gallons of water per day. These sprinkler timers act like a thermostat for your sprinklers, adjusting the amount of water plants and lawn receive according to weather conditions, soil type, sun exposure (such as shade vs. full sun) and plant type.

5: Water plants early in the morning to reduce evaporation—saves 50 gallons of water each time you water.

6: Inside your home, check and fix leaks—saves 30-50 gallons of water per day. The most common type of leak inside a home is a toilet leak, which can waste 200 gallons of water per day. That's enough to wash seven loads of laundry every day for a month.

More Ideas and Resources

[Best Ways to Save at BeWaterSmart.info](#)

[Water-Wise Tree Watering Tips](#)

[Check Soil Moisture and Save Water](#)

[Efficient Sprinklers](#)

[Household Leaks](#)