

Plant of the Month

Rosemary

(Rosmarinus officinalis)

Rosemary is a highly fragrant blooming evergreen shrub. Its woody stems and pine like needle leaves host vibrant flowers in the spring and summer in shades of white, pink, and purple. This shrub is often victim of too much attention and requires minimal to no care. Simply provide Rosemary with well drained sandy soil and at least 6-8 hours of full sun per day. Rosemary is such a water conscious plant that you should allow it to dry out between watering. This makes it a perfect addition to container gardens and drought tolerant landscapes. It matures at 3-5 feet but may be pruned freely for control or to achieve a specific topiary look.

Rosemary offers year round culinary and aromatic qualities that will not disappoint!



Save Water, Save Money

What is the 40 Gallon Challenge?

The 40 Gallon Challenge is a call for residents and businesses to reduce our region's water use on average by 40 gallons per person, per day. The challenge began in 2011 as a voluntary campaign to increase water conservation.

The 40 Gallon Challenge encourages people to save a minimum of 40 gallons a day by adopting new water-saving techniques. The pledge card outlines water-saving practices and the daily water-savings to expect. You can use the pledge to review the water-saving practices that you or your family currently puts to use. By pledging new practices, you will see the total daily savings expected for your household.

The 40 Gallon Challenge also provides maps and charts to see pledge activities in your state and across the United States.

"The average household spends as much as \$500 per year on its water and sewer bill. By making just a few simple changes to use water more efficiently, you could save about \$170 per year." – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Irrigation Essentials

Turn off Your Controller. Turn your controller to off or manual. When it's time to water, turn the irrigation controller dial to run or auto then push the manual start button. With short cold days and long cold nights, most plants are not actively growing in the winter. Irrigating in the winter is only required every 15 to 20 days if no rain has fallen. Irrigate only when necessary.

Rain & Freeze Sensors. Rain and freeze sensor will override the irrigation controller command to run the system during rainy and freezing weather. Cities may issue a citation if an irrigation system runs during a rain or freeze event. If an accident occurs because of ice from an irrigation system the owner may be held liable for damages. If you do not have a rain and freeze sensor connected to

your irrigation controller, now is a good time to install one. You can do it yourself or have a licensed irrigator install one. **Irrigation Check Up.** If your irrigation system is not working efficiently, the winter is a good time to hire an irrigation professional to check the system and make any repairs. Once irrigation season arrives in late March, irrigation companies become very busy.

December 2012

40 Gallon Challenge Pledge Facts

- Reduce irrigation station runtimes by 2 minutes. **Save 80 gallons**
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. **Save 22 gallons.**
- Fix a leaky toilet. **Save 30 gallons.**

How do I take the 40-Gallon Challenge?

Simply complete the Pledge Card!

Go online at

<http://www.40gallonchallenge.org>



*Don't flush your money down the drain!
Take the 40 Gallon Challenge Pledge to conserve water today!*



2013 Upcoming Courses

Educational Demonstration Training

January 17, 2013

9 am – 12 pm

Rainwater Harvesting-Large System

January 31, 2013

1 pm – 4 pm

Register at <http://dallas.tamu.edu/courses/>

Check Out a Demo or Program

What demos and programs are available?

Demos

- Dual Flush Toilet
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Stream Trailer
- Rainfall Simulator
- Enviroscope® Watershed/Non Point Source Model
- Enviroscope® Drinking Water & Wastewater Model

Programs

- Freddy the Fish
- The Incredible Water Journey
- Water Drops on a Penny

More information available by [clicking here](#).

How to check out a demo or program:

Complete and Print Form: [Water Demo and Program Release Form](#)

Submit the form by email to Karen Sanders at karen.sanders@tamu.edu or fax to 972.952.9216

Karen will follow up with you about your request once received or you may contact her for questions or concerns.

We want to hear from you!!!

How to report your event success:

[Event Report Form 2011](#)



Resources

EARTHKIND

Encourages:

- Landscape Water conservation
- Reduction of fertilizer and pesticide use
- Landscaping for energy conservation
- Reduction of landscape wastes entering landfills

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/>

Who We Are

The Texas A&M Agrilife Research and Extension Center at Dallas is a gateway to science, researchers and Extension educators across the U.S. The Center serves all of urban Texas, and the Dallas-Arlington-Fort Worth metropolitan area in particular.

We're on the web!!

<http://dallas.tamu.edu/>

Landscape Essentials

New Planting or Transplanting Trees & Shrubs. Winter is the best time to plant or transplant new trees and shrubs. Trees and shrubs go through less transplant shock during the winter and vigorous spring root growth aids the plants survival in the long hot summer. Summer planted trees and shrubs have a difficult time.

Winter Watering. Water in the morning or day before a freeze is expected. This will help protect the plants from freeze damage.

Plant Protection. Protect plants susceptible to freeze damage by adding 2 to 4 inches of mulch. Use a landscape blanket or your blanket or sheet to protect winter annuals if the temperature is going to drop below 32 degrees. Landscape blanket material is available at most garden centers or feed stores.

Tree Pruning. Pruning trees is a winter garden chore requiring careful consideration. Prune trees to remove dead, damaged or diseased limbs and branches that endanger your home, people or utility lines. If you are not sure how or where to prune, take pictures of the tree from four different angles. Take these pictures to your local nursery center and ask for advice.

Bed Preparation. Prepare spring flower, vegetable, and rose beds now. Bare root roses are available from local nurseries or by mail order in January or February. Work in about fifty percent organic matter. Take advantage of all the leaves around your house and your neighborhood. The leaves shredded now and added to the soil will be compost by spring.