#### THE CHALLENGE...

...with recent successful efforts to curtail landscape water use, and a possible shortterm remedy in El Niño, how can we inspire homeowners to continue with landscape modifications, sustaining the conservation momentum into the future.

# SUCCESSFUL LANDSCAPING FOR THE FUTURE... IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Presented by Steve Williams Mt. San Antonio College

### TIPS FOR A DROUGHT TOLERANT LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION

- Develop a plan
- Check ordinances in fire risk zones
- Map property micro-climates
- Determine daily/seasonal movement of sun/shadows
- Understand the soil type/water holding capacity
- Incorporate methods to increase soil permeability
- Capture rain/irrigation water runoff
- Design/install a water saving irrigation system to match plant requirements and to provide deep, infrequent watering

## **Monitor Soil Moisture**





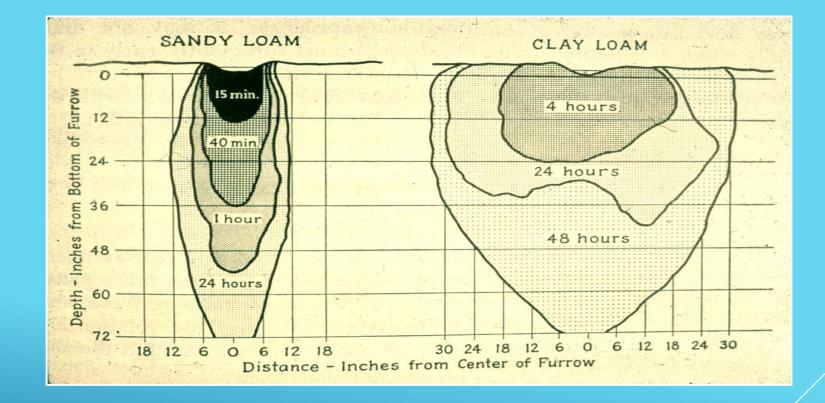
Soil probe





Soil sampling tube

### **Determine Soil Water Holding Capacity**



### Depths To Irrigate

Turf- 8 To 12 In.Shrubs- Small: 1 Ft.- Large: 2 Ft.Trees- Small: 2 Ft.- Large: 3 Ft.

- Choose California friendly plants
  - Mediterranean & other dry plant regions
  - Native for wildlife habitat
- Hydrozone plants
  - <u>All of the plant material in a hydrozone should have</u> the same water requirements
  - Plants are often classified by water needs
    - ► High (4)
    - Medium (3)
    - ► Low (2)
    - Very Low (1)
  - Use a transition hydrozone or physical barrier between High and Low water use plants

- Incorporate a sense of design into the installation
- Utilize shade trees to help regulate (home & landscape)temperatures and to help reduce soil and understory plant moisture loss
- Choose and maintain plants to decrease green waste
- > Plant fall thru winter and irrigate as needed to establish
- Mulch properly

A new water saving landscape will save money and increase property value!



FINAL THOUGHT: AN ORGANIZED, AREA WIDE, OPEN GARDEN DAY WITH TURF REPLACEMENT INSTALLATIONS FROM EACH OF THE MWD 26 SERVICE AREAS HIGHLIGHTING GOOD DESIGN TO OTHER HOMEOWNERS BY SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT COST, TIPS, CHALLENGES, BEFORE AND AFTER WATER SAVINGS AND PHOTOS TO INSPIRE THEIR OWN WATER SAVING LANDSCAPE MODIFICATIONS.