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For immediate Release

Appropriate Maintenance of Lawns & Gardens Can Help Save Water

Stanton (April 18, 2017) – It's that time of year again to begin thinking about our lawns and gardens. Many people are planting grass seed or sod, trying to green up their yards, and are sprucing up their landscape. What many people don't realize is that considering just a few small factors can help them save money as well as make their lawns and landscapes thrive.

When looking to plant turf grasses it is important to select a species that is adapted to the climate of your area and to the conditions of the site where it will be planted. Try to avoid impractical turf use.

Regular and appropriate maintenance of lawns, gardens and landscaping can help conserve water as well as time and labor. The proper pruning, weeding, fertilization, pest control and irrigation adjustments all will help to save water.

A soil analysis is another simple yet important step you can take in your lawn or garden. If you fertilize based on soil samples to your specific site this can help reveal what specific nutrients your soil may be lacking. Applying only the specific amount and type of nutrient that your soil is needing will also help reduce pollution and groundwater contamination. The soil analysis can also determine whether soil improvement is needed for better water absorption and improved water-holding capacity. Incorporating at least 3 inches of finished, plant-derived compost into the soil will improve nutrient and water holding capacity in sandy soils and improve drainage in clay soils.

Be sure to use appropriate plant selections not only specific to our region but also based on the specific plant area (shade/sun, soil depth/quality, intended use, amount of traffic, and level of maintenance).

Using efficient irrigation specific to your site and needs can help save 30-50% on your water bills. Low volume irrigation such as drip irrigation is at least 90% efficient compared to the 50-70% efficiency of traditional sprinkler irrigation. Using mulch also helps to significantly reduce the amount of water required in landscapes by preventing water loss from evaporation and increasing water penetration during irrigation.

If you would like to learn more about turf grasses and drought tolerant landscaping as well as how to properly water, fertilize and weed these areas then the Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District invites you to join us on May 4th for our annual Rainwater Harvesting Workshop.

The presentation will take place at the PBUWCD office at 708 W. St. Peter Street in Stanton, TX from 5:30-7:00 pm and is free to the public. The guest speaker this year will be Extension Agent in Horticulture, Jeff Floyd, with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The PBUWCD staff will also give a brief presentation and tour of our rainwater harvesting system, which includes 2- 2500 gallon tanks as well as rain barrels and rain chains and xeriscape landscaping. There will be a door prize drawing for a rain barrel and rain chain giveaway.

Come learn more on May 4th on how you can incorporate water conservation practices in your own home and gardens!