

5 HOT TIPS!

To Help Your Garden Beat the Summer Heat

**Sarah Wilson, Public Affairs Specialist
Municipal Water District of Orange County**

Summer is almost here, bringing a special kind of joy, with long, sun-drenched days and leisurely evenings spent outdoors with friends and family. It's a season of vibrant blooms, fresh produce, and the calming sounds of nature, making it an ideal time to reconnect with the outdoors and revel in the beauty of your green space. However, gardening in the heat can be tricky as many gardeners face the challenge of

keeping their plants healthy in the hot summer sun. Traditional gardening practices can often lead to excessive water use, but with a few simple strategies, you can create a thriving, water-smart oasis without sacrificing your plants or your sanity.

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, these five (5) hot tips will have you singing a different tune.



1

HERE COMES THE SUN.

Shade is your and your garden's best friend during the hot summer months. Using shade structures like pergolas, shade cloths, or even strategically placing tall plants can protect delicate plants from the scorching sun by minimizing evaporation, preventing wilting, and reducing plants' water needs. Plus, creating shaded areas provides a cool retreat for you to enjoy your green space comfortably.

2

EVERY ROSE HAS ITS THORN.

While summer brings many joys, it also brings bugs. Native plants are adapted to our semi-arid climate, making them less dependent on frequent watering while also attracting local beneficial insects that act as a natural pest control. Not to mention, there are nearly 6,500 species and varieties of California native plants to choose from!

3

UNDERNEATH IT ALL.

Applying mulch to your garden beds is an excellent way to retain soil moisture in the heat of the summer sun and reduce water usage. Mulch acts as a barrier, preventing water from evaporating too quickly and keeping the soil temperature cooler. As organic mulch decomposes, it also provides essential nutrients to your plants.

4

ICE ICE BABY.

There's nothing better than an ice-cold drink at the end of a hot summer day. When you've taken your last sip, place the remaining ice cubes around the base of your plants, especially in potted plants or hanging baskets. As the ice melts, it provides a slow and steady supply of water, preventing overwatering and ensuring that your plants receive consistent moisture throughout the day.

5

STILL HAVEN'T FOUND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

If you need more ideas and inspiration, look no further than our award-winning [Coronet WaterSmart Demonstration Garden](#)! Visit the garden this summer to see firsthand how these water-smart strategies are implemented and adapt them to your own garden.