

## episode sixteen: Saving Money and Resources in Your Garden



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### key concepts

You can save money and resources just by making some simple changes in the way you water and maintain your landscaping. In their 16th episode, ***Garden Wise Guys: Saving Money and Resources in Your Garden*** hosts Owen Dell & Billy Goodnick show an old friend how she can put cash in her pocket while doing good for the environment.

In this 40-minute episode, learn how to retrofit an irrigation system, simplify maintenance and select the right plant for the right place. It will save money on water bills and monthly landscape bills and nourish landscaping.

- Change watering system settings or watering behavior.

That means schedule your irrigation so your lawn gets only as much as it needs. To learn how much to water different plants, use the Landscape Watering Calculator on this website. You could save 30 percent to 50 percent on the cost of maintaining a landscape just by changing your watering behavior.

- Invest in updating the hardware of your watering system. This may include:

Replacing traditional sprinklers that have spray heads with rotating sprinkler nozzles. Visit an irrigation supply store and ask for help on how to easily retrofit with rotating nozzles. They use less water.



Use inline drip irrigation components, which slowly water your plants.

Install electronic rain sensors, which are free to customers of several water providers in Santa Barbara County. Rain sensors turn off your sprinklers when it's raining.



Replace timers with smart irrigation controllers, which automatically determine your garden's watering needs based on the weather.

- Install the right plant in the right place

Do you really need grass in its current location? You can save by replacing it with such lawn alternatives as fescue, carex or buffalo grass. Or you could plant fruit trees and edibles for sustainability, or create a wildlife habitat or strolling garden. Lawn uses the most water.

Remove overgrown plants that constantly need pruning. Replace with appropriate sized plants for that location.

Use mulch. It eliminates the need to cultivate soil, reduces water evaporation by at least 50 percent, saves on the water bill and saves on the cost of a gardener's labor.