

## Garden Wise TV Episode 7: Drought Proofing Your Garden (20:42)



This episode of Garden Wise focuses on ways to be water wise in the drought. Did you know that 2013 was the driest year on record? Our host Meg West takes us around the community to learn some of the most important actions we can take to conserve water, from replacing lawns with more sustainable landscapes to checking sprinklers for leaks and overspray.

We begin with a segment called “What Not to Water,” and meet Myrtle, a proud lawn owner. While it’s clear that Myrtle loves her big greenish (more like yellowing) lawn, her neighbors complain that it’s a water waster and an eyesore. Fortunately, it’s Meg West to the rescue! Meg sends Myrtle to visit the Alice Keck Memorial Gardens to explore the abundant water wise demonstration garden while she has a crew rip out her lawn and replace it with a sustainable, water efficient and eye pleasing landscape. No longer a water wasting offender, Myrtle can now enjoy her diverse garden full of water wise plants such as olive trees, Spanish lavender, rockrose, and blue fescue.

Her sprinklers were replaced with a drip irrigation system to avoid overspray and runoff. Mulch was added to her plants, and the crew also created a new walkway that allows water to flow through the landscape into the soil – which is important for replenishing our groundwater in times of rain. For more information on how to transform your own lawn, visit [WaterWiseSB.org](http://WaterWiseSB.org). Be sure to check the site for rebates!



Next we take a trip to another Santa Barbara resident’s home, or, more specifically, her sidewalk! Diane Orlando had no idea her sprinklers in her parkway were overspraying because they went off so early in the morning – which is a very common problem, be sure to check your sprinklers today! Diane worked with David of Landscapes by Davids to convert her lawn parkway to a sustainable and water wise landscape. In just a few days, they removed her lawn, installed drip irrigation, and planted water wise plants. Diane loves that her new parkway is low maintenance and drought friendly.



Do you regularly pass by a residence or business with leaky or overspraying sprinklers? Meg did. In our next trip, she stops in to tell her unaware neighbors about the overspray, and teaches them how to perform their own self irrigation audit. Meg shows her neighbors how to use the Watering % Adjust on their sprinkler timer to adjust their sprinkler system according to the weather. By turning on each sprinkler system one by one, she also was able to check and

correct leaky and overspraying sprinklers. Visit [WaterWiseSB.org](http://WaterWiseSB.org) to see a weekly Watering % Adjust

amount, learn how to perform your own irrigation audit, and find a (bilingual) guide on working with your gardener to make your garden more water efficient.

Last, we visit Detective Billy Goodnick in an exciting new case of *Crimes Against Horticulture*. Billy's mission is to help his community create beautiful, useful, sustainable landscapes, and not plants that "look like a bunch of UFOs, meatballs and hockey pucks." In this week's case of "Pitiful Pruning," we investigate a duo of olive trees pruned beyond recognition.



Olive trees naturally grow large enough to cast shade and keep our city cooler, which ultimately saves energy. Can these pitifully pruned olive trees be saved? According to Billy, if there is a well formed network of branches underneath the canopy, then the tree can be retrained to grow into a large tree. But if not, you're best of getting rid of the trees and planting something better. The National Arbor Day Foundation ([ArborDay.org](http://ArborDay.org)) is a good source of information on what types of trees to plant and how to maintain them.

In the wise words of Meg West, you are the agent of change. Outdoor water use accounts for over 60% of total household water usage. Learn how to be a responsible gardener and how to save water during the drought.

#### Water Saving Actions:

- #1 Replace sprinklers with drip irrigation
- #2 Plant water wise plants
- #3 Break up hardscapes so water can flow through the landscape
- #4 Surround your plants with mulch
- #5 Check sprinklers for leaks and drips
- #6 Make sure drip lines are not broken or clogged

