

Landscape Maintenance to Conserve Water

Additional steps to reduce water to your landscape.

Pruning

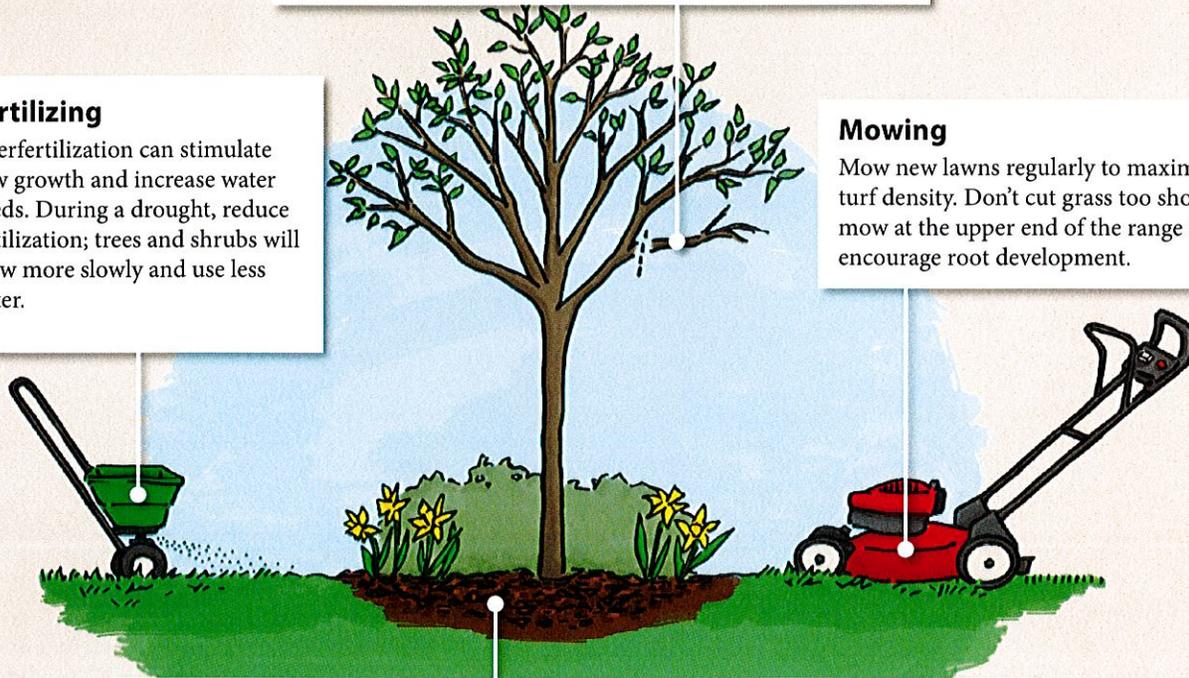
New trees and shrubs need minimal pruning. For established plants, prune in late winter or spring to stimulate growth. Remove only dead or diseased branches.

Fertilizing

Overfertilization can stimulate new growth and increase water needs. During a drought, reduce fertilization; trees and shrubs will grow more slowly and use less water.

Mowing

Mow new lawns regularly to maximize turf density. Don't cut grass too short; mow at the upper end of the range to encourage root development.



Mulch

A 3- to 5-inch layer of mulch reduces evaporation 70 percent. Make sure the water penetrates through the mulch and reaches the soil.



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Larger-diameter organic mulches: shredded bark, bark chips, bark dust, and conifer needles. You can apply these mulches 3 to 5 inches deep since they don't readily decompose or compact.



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Small-diameter organic mulches: sawdust, decomposed compost, and dried grass clippings. A 2- to 3-inch layer of these products is sufficient and allows for air exchange between the soil and atmosphere.



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Inorganic mulch: lava rock, river rock, and landscape fabrics.

Tip: Apply mulch evenly and leave a few inches bare around the stem or trunk of the plant.