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Do you want to save money on your water bill this summer? Then try converting to a landscape that uses native plants and careful design. That one change could reduce your water use by 20 to 50 percent, according to the Texas SmartScape program.

Texas SmartScape is an award winning gardening program educating homeowners about the ecological and economic benefits of using landscaping plants, trees, shrubs, and grasses native to this region and the local climate. Homeowners can still have a thriving lawn or garden in the middle of summer. By using native plants, the amount of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides are also reduced, which also helps keep chemicals out of streams, rivers, and lakes.

The Texas SmartScape website, www.txsmartscape.com has the tools for success. The interactive database allows you to search SmartScape approved plants that are the right fit for any yard, while the landscape design tool walks both the professional and first-timers through the entire landscaping process.

Some simple ways to save water include:

- **Water less frequently.** Most lawns only need watering once every five to seven days in the growing season and every 15 to 20 days in the winter. If it rains, you may be able to water even less often.
- **Water early or late.** Water your yard only between 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. to avoid loss from evaporation
- **Reduce turf grass.** Lawns typically require a large amount of supplemental water and generally more intensive maintenance than other vegetation.
- **Install drip irrigation** in flower beds and at the roots of shrubs. Drip irrigation delivers almost 95 percent of the water to plants.

Currently, the City of Burleson is still under the Stage 1 Water Restrictions that were enacted Aug. 25, 2011 after a string of more than 55 days of triple digit temperatures combined with no significant rainfall since June 2011.

Stage 1 Water Restrictions are part of the drought contingency plan, a copy of which is posted on the City website. Stage 1 is enacted by the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD), which supplies water to an 11-county area, including Tarrant County. Burleson buys its water from the City of Fort Worth. Fort Worth is

supplied by the TRWD. All direct customers and indirect customers of the TRWD are affected by the restrictions.

Since 2009 the City of Burleson has banned watering with irrigation or sprinkler systems, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., year round. This includes residential and non-residential customers.

With Stage 1 Water Restrictions, landscape watering is limited to twice a week.

- Residential addresses that end in even numbers (0, 2, 4, 6, and 8) may water on Wednesday and Saturday.
- Residential addresses that end in odd numbers (1, 3, 5, 7, and 9) may water on Thursday and Sunday.
- Non-residential addresses (apartments, businesses, parks, medians, etc.) may water on Tuesday and Friday.
- There is no landscape watering on Monday.

Stage 1 is enacted when the combined storage capacity of the TRWD reservoirs reaches 75 percent. The four reservoirs are Lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain Lake, Cedar Creek and Richland-Chambers. The TRWD also gets water from Lake Benbrook. Fort Worth draws water from Lake Worth.