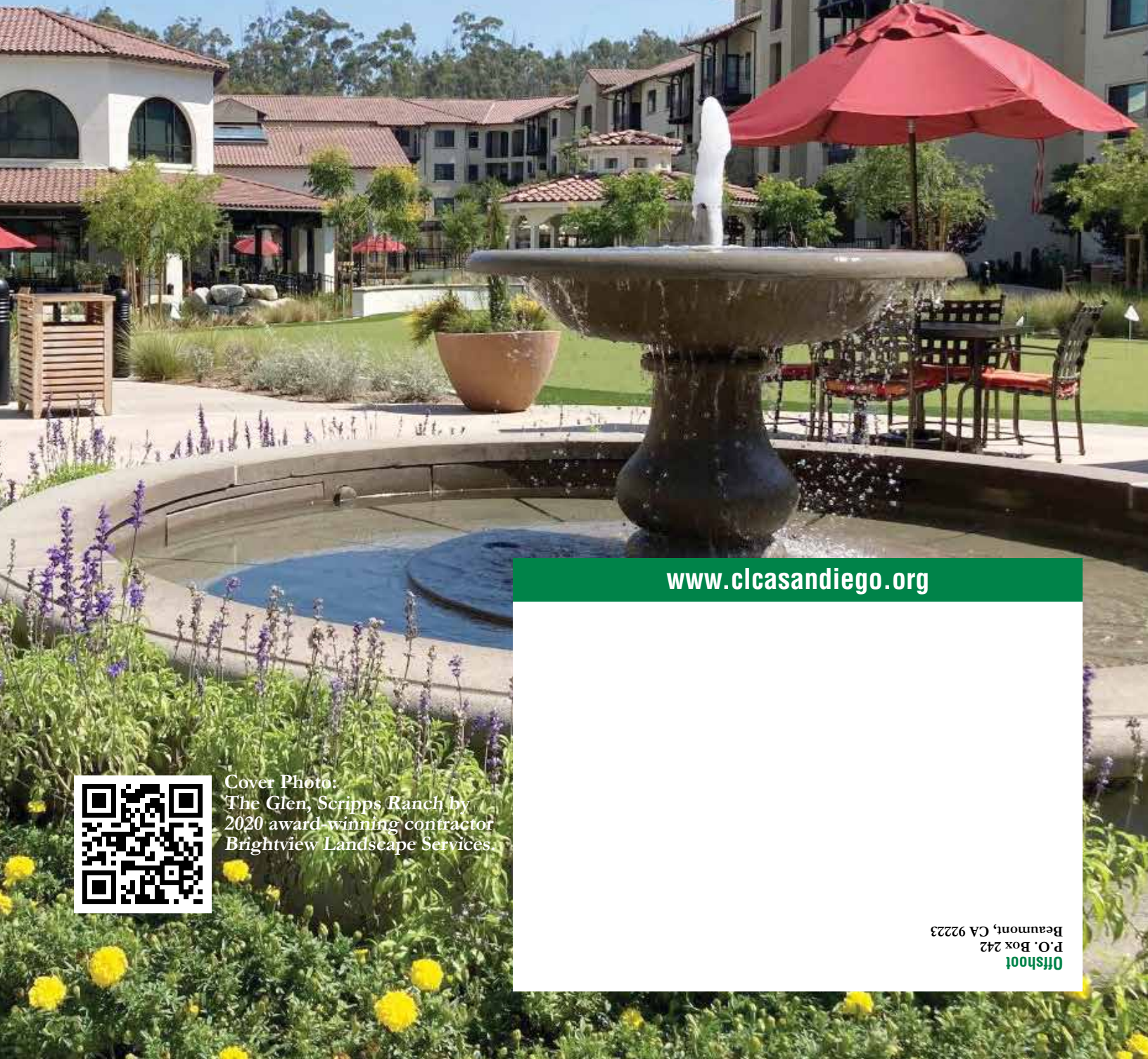


JULY 2021

# Offshoot

The Official Publication of the California Landscape Contractors Association San Diego Chapter



[www.clcasandiego.org](http://www.clcasandiego.org)



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## President's Message

*Willie Valdez*



To keep cool on a scorching hot day while reflecting on a challenging issue at one of my sites, I took a moment to rest under the canopy of a huge magnolia tree. While sitting there, I asked myself: what will it take over this long, hot summer to keep this site healthy, beautifully vibrant, and selling work for us? My first thought went to the hard-working team members who are tasked with the physical work of maintaining the project and improving its look every day. The spirit of the crew members shows up directly in the shape and beauty of the landscape project. Knowing this, I then asked myself: what should I work on most, and how can I help supplement the crew's hearty efforts? What else will be required? What ingredient will be the key or most important thing I can do? Water? More labor? Knowledge? Better equipment? Improved skillset? Timely fertilizer? Extra motivation? Buckets of love?

My goal is to have the work sell itself. Knowing that, I realized I can't rate these ingredients individually – they're ALL vitally important for the desired outcome. If one area is deficient, it will have an effect on the other areas, leaving a negative net impact and killing the goal.

As this reality set in, I went back to the first thing that came to mind: the crew and this work. Landscaping work

is hard work, and the spirit of the crew is key to reaching the goal. In fact, nothing is as singularly important as the spirit of the crew. They are all stakeholders in their own way, and their combined spirit is the gateway to all the productivity and the eventual outcome: the beautiful work that sells itself. Without a healthy esprit de corps for our crews, it would be impossible to reach the goal as desired.

The hot sun on that day made me see and remember the hardworking people of our industry as the most important key to successfully having quality work produced so that it can sell itself. It has been quite a few years since I weeded by hand or spent a full day behind a rattling, clanking piece of landscaping equipment. So, this thought took me back to my roots, literally. Viewing a beautiful landscape on a hot summer day beneath the shade of a tree to momentarily rest and recoup my thoughts was invigorating. I so love this hard work.

Thanks to all landscape industry workers and stakeholders – I believe it all starts with them and they are the key to success.

Best always, Willie.

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Thursday, August 19, 2021



**PANEL TOPIC:**  
**IRRIGATION CHALLENGES  
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**SPEAKERS:**  
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**Contractor:**  
Willie Valdez, Dutch-Drain inc.,  
CLCA San Diego chapter  
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# Coming Events

Mark your calendar!

## August 10

**San Diego Chapter General Meeting.** All welcome. Due to health guidelines, this will be a virtual meeting. To attend, email amy@conradpr.com for the Zoom link.

## August 19

**San Diego Chapter Educational Seminar, 2 p.m.**  
**Topic: In-line Drip Tubing Best Practices and Design.** All welcome. Register at www.clcasandiego.org. Due to health guidelines, this will be a virtual seminar.

## August 19

**RCP Educational Event, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Topic: Irrigation Challenges During Droughts.**  
All welcome. *More info on page 4.*

## September 11

**San Diego Chapter Beautification Awards.**  
*Bernardo Winery: 13330 Paseo Del Verano Norte, San Diego.*

## September 14

**San Diego Chapter General Meeting.** All welcome. Due to health guidelines, this will be a virtual meeting. To attend, email amy@conradpr.com for the Zoom link.

## September 16

**San Diego Chapter Educational Seminar, 2 p.m.**  
**Topic: Newest Trends in Irrigation and Irrigation Controls.** All welcome. Due to health guidelines, this will be a virtual seminar.

## October 12

**San Diego Chapter General Meeting.** All welcome. Due to health guidelines, this will be a virtual meeting. To attend, email amy@conradpr.com for the Zoom link.

## October 21

**San Diego Chapter Educational Seminar, 2 p.m.**  
**Topic: Rock and Hardscape Design Basics.**  
All welcome. Due to health guidelines, this will be a virtual seminar.

## November 3-6

**CLCA Convention in Ka'anapali, Maui, Hawaii.**  
Learn more at [www.clca.org/convention](http://www.clca.org/convention).

## December 9

**San Diego Chapter Holiday Party.** All welcome.  
*Stone Brewing: 1999 Citracado Parkway, Escondido.*

## 2021 San Diego Chapter Board of Directors

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# CLCA Legislative Update

Submitted by CLCA President-Elect, Megan Rios, Rios Design Studio LLC

## New Opposed Bills Killed

Both the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees completed processing their “suspense” files and several CLCA Priority 2 oppose bills were held in committee or killed on the floor. We can score this an advocacy win for CLCA as these bills were actively lobbied.

### AB 995 (Gonzalez, L)

Increased state mandated paid sick days from three to five. Killed on Assembly Floor.

### Previously reported bills killed in Appropriations:

#### AB 95 (Low)

10-day bereavement leave mandate.

#### AB 1119 (Wicks)

This bill expands the list of protected characteristics under the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) to include “family responsibilities.”

#### SB 304 (Archuleta)

Increases the amount of authorized work, which exempts an individual from licensure requirements from \$500 to \$1000.

### Next up:

#### AB 1346 (Berman) Small Off-Road Engines (SORE)

AB 1346 would codify into state law what the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is already doing, which is developing state regulations to ban the sales of SORE starting in 2024. Whether AB 1346 passes or not, CARB is continuing with their regulatory efforts. Your CLCA lobbyist has not recommended taking any position on AB 1346 because this legislation has no effect on CARB’s authority to promulgate these regulations. Instead, it is recommended that CLCA and other interested parties weigh into the public comment period on the SORE regulations which is anticipated to start in the fall of 2021.

### Drought Legislative Update

*(see list of monitored bills to the right)*

California continues to have a total of 41 counties under emergency declaration by the Governor. Consequently, we are starting to see both voluntary and mandatory water conservation measures put into place. We anticipate more drought legislation but due to the lack of progress on the state budget negotiations, it is unclear what the final legislative picture will look like.

At the time of this writing, the Legislature appears to be going along with \$3.7 billion to address and get ahead of the emerging drought, and this was the amount proposed by the Governor’s May Revision.

## CLCA Monitored Drought & Water Related Legislation

*as of 6/21/2021*

AB 1164 (Flora-R) Dams and reservoirs: exclusions.

AB 1195 (Garcia, Cristina-D) Drinking water.

AB 1434 (Friedman-D) Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use.

AB 1500 (Garcia, Eduardo-D) Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, Bond Act.

SB 45 (Portantino-D) Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, Bond Act.

SB 222 (Dodd-D) Water Rate Assistance Program.

SB 351 (Caballero-D) Water Innovation Act of 2021.

SB 403 (Gonzalez-D) Drinking water: consolidation.

SB 463 (Dahle-R) Water: landowner right to modify, repair, or replace joint conduits.

SB 552 (Hertzberg-D) Drought planning: small water suppliers.

SB 559 (Hurtado-D) DWR: water conveyance systems: Canal Conveyance Capacity.

SB 698 (Grove-R) Water rights: reasonable and beneficial use of water.

SB 708 (Melendez-R) Water shortage emergencies: declarations: de-energization events.

SB 776 (Gonzalez-D) Safe drinking water and water quality.

SB 786 (Becker-D) Santa Clara Valley Water District.

*Water is KEY to CLCA’s success and so are relationships. Now is the perfect time to invite your representatives to your meetings! Remember to take photos and share with CLCA HQ.*

**CLCA’s mission is to serve and protect the interests of its members, promote professionalism, and advance public awareness of the landscape industry. Learn more at [www.clca.org](http://www.clca.org)**

# Updated Wall Lights Reduce Glare & Increase Design Flexibility

Get ready for a new angle on wall lighting! FX Luminaire's sleek VO and SL Wall Lights offer new angled faceplate options for reduced glare and greater design flexibility in hardscape settings.

“Controlling the light is crucial when creating an attractive outdoor lighting design,” said Sarah Auyeung, Associate Product Manager for FX Luminaire. “These innovative options allow designers to direct the light toward a specific object and achieve the effect they want.”

## New Round Faceplate for VO Wall Light

The popular VO Wall Light is now available with a Round (RD) faceplate option. The new faceplate prevents unwanted glare while directing light output toward a desired surface. With an IP68 rating, it can be used as a watertight in-grade for illuminating specific objects or as a wall light for lighting pathways.

### Features:

- Premium stainless steel body that is durable, rust-proof, and easy to clean
- Integrated ZD 1 LED board that provides zoning and dimming capabilities
- Special mounting kit available to simplify installation in concrete applications

## SL Wall Light Now Available in a Larger Size

The SL Wall Light is now offered in two sizes, simplifying hardscape projects without compromising light output. The new, larger SL-5 configuration offers an extended horizontal lens that provides a wide beam spread up to 14' (4m), ensuring an even distribution on walkways with fewer fixtures.

Available with Curved (CV) and Flat (FT) faceplate configurations and nine powder-coat finish options, the modern SL Wall Light is the perfect complement for any outdoor lighting project.



### Features:

- Easy-to-install models that are retrofit capable using standard junction boxes for North America (1-G and 4")
- Die-cast aluminum construction to ensure a strong, lightweight fixture
- Marine-grade anodization and powder-coat finish to maximize corrosion protection
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# Curb Appeal

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# The Landscape Expo Set for October 13-14 in Long Beach

The Landscape Expo is back and taking place at the Long Beach Convention Center on October 13 and 14. Register today and plan to catch up with everyone in the industry!

There will be some great new speakers along with their very best regular educators in all aspects of the landscape industry. Learn what kind of plants to use and when, how to deal with different soils, everything you need to know about pests and trees, and of course, ways to handle the biggest problem we have in California... a diminishing water supply.

## Agencies and Organizations at TLE

- This year they will have Dan Mabe from the Green Zone Alliance and a speaker from CARB. (You do know about the new laws relating to gas powered equipment and trucks, right?)

- The USDA will be exhibiting with their rain demo and a soil scientist will be discussing soil and drought. They are also working to have a panel discussion on Carbon in the Landscape.
- The California Native Plant Society, CISEC, and the Greywater Action group will be speaking.
- Kathy Kellogg and Dan Noble, on behalf of the ACP, will be talking on compost and Senate Bill 1383 which will impact the landscape industry dramatically, effective January 2022.

You don't want to miss it! The Landscape Expo encourages all green industry and related associations – and their members – to attend.

Register to attend at [www.thelandscapeexpo.com](http://www.thelandscapeexpo.com).



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## Join the 2022 Chapter Board of Directors!

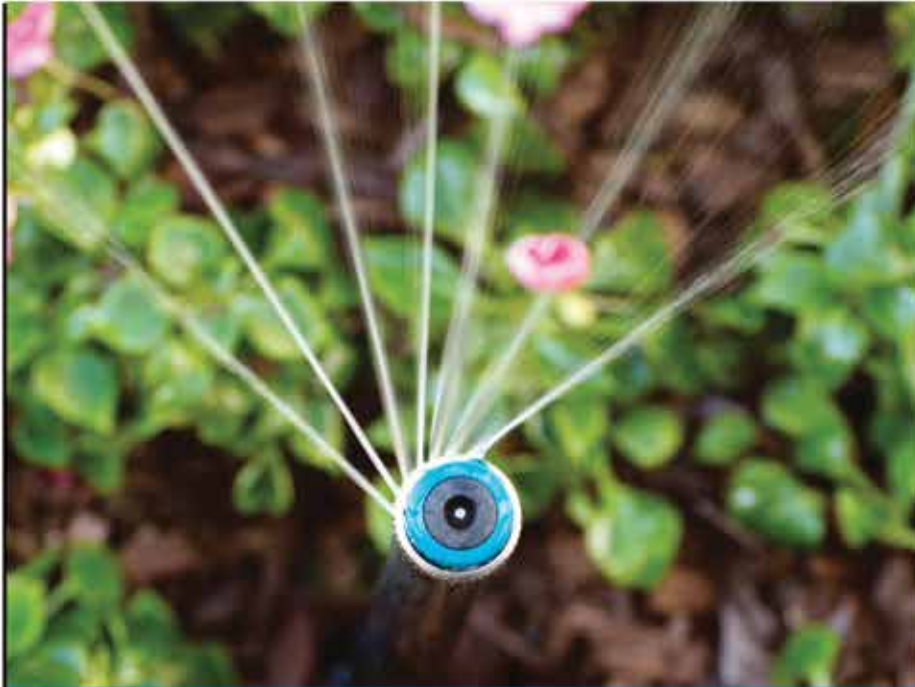
The San Diego Chapter is considering potential Chapter Officers for the 2022 CLCA year. If you're interested in joining the board and making a difference, please reach out to Chapter President Willie Valdez at (760) 500-9863.





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# Expanding Your Landscape Plant Choices Beyond WUCOLS

Submitted by Karrie Reid, Environmental Horticulture Advisor, University of CA Cooperative Extension

Navigating the combined alphabet soup of MWELo, CIMIS, and WUCOLS can be daunting. This is the first in a series of articles on the UC Landscape Plant Irrigation Trials (UCLPIT) and the lessons we've learned in 16 years of research to help the industry understand and use plant factors (PF) in ways that benefit them, their clients, and the environment.



*Visitors rate plants at a 2019 Open House of the trial fields at UC Davis.*

## What Is UCLPIT?

UCLPIT is a 2-year in-ground research trial program evaluating perennial landscape shrubs, groundcovers, grasses, succulents, and herbaceous plants on irrigation levels corresponding to the Water Use Classification of Landscape of Species (WUCOLS) categories of Low, Moderate, and High (<https://ucanr.edu/WUCOLS>).

If you have ever filled out a Landscape Documentation Package for compliance with the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo), you know that you have to demonstrate that your estimated total water use (ETWU) will not exceed your Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA). To do that calculation, you need to know the plant factor (PF), a percentage of reference evapotranspiration (ET<sub>o</sub>), for the specified plants in each irrigation zone. According to MWELo, the PF must come from WUCOLS or, according to the 2015 revision, from "horticultural researchers with academic institutions or professional associations as approved by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR)."

UCLPIT is the only ongoing DWR-approved research trial adding to the current static list of plants found in the WUCOLS database.

## Selecting Trial Plants

We began our trials working to establish water-use levels for California natives, UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars, and other species already in the nursery trade. In some cases we provided WUCOLS with new information or amended the published category with one more accurately determined by the research. Then we saw the potential to provide an even more important service for both the producers and end-users of landscape plants by focusing on new and recently introduced

plants. Without a published WUCOLS category, these plants could not feasibly be used in MWELo landscape package calculations.

So, in 2009, we began working with growers, breeders, and brokers to evaluate new plant material suitable for our summer-dry state. To date, we have worked with over 25 companies, not just from California, but national and international companies as well.

## How Does UCLPIT Work?

The trial fields at UC Davis and in Irvine at the UC South Coast Research and Extension Center, have the capacity for up to 21 species in full sun and 4 under 50% shade cloth each year. In the fall, we plant 24 plants of each cultivar we are evaluating. Bare root roses are planted the following winter, with any late entries planted in spring. The planted area is covered with 2-3" of organic mulch. All plants are irrigated regularly via drip through the summer in order to develop a healthy and deep root system and prevent stress during the critical establishment period. The second spring the field enters the deficit irrigation period with eight plants of each species assigned to each

*Continued on next page...*



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# Expanding Your Landscape Plant Choices Beyond WUCOLS

...Continued from previous page

of three treatments corresponding to the WUCOLS categories of Low (20% of ETo), Moderate (50% of ETo), or High (80% of ETo).

## How Are the Plants Irrigated?

We apply the same amount of water at each irrigation, varying the frequency using a real-time, weather-based, water budget model in much the same way farmers do when precision irrigating crops (See <https://cimis.water.ca.gov/Resources.aspx;Resources>Irrigation Overview>Irrigation Scheduling>). We aim to allow half of the plant available water to be used up before re-applying it. This method conserves water while simultaneously minimizing plant stress. For example, if a plant is a true low-water user, it will only use 20% of the daily ETo, taking it four times as long to use up the same amount of water needed by a high-water user at the 80% rate. More detailed information on our methods can be found on our website: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/UCLPIT/>.

## Determining the Water Use Category

Growth measurements and ratings for each plant are collected monthly during the deficit irrigation season. Ratings evaluate foliage quality, flowering abundance, pest tolerance, disease resistance, vigor, and overall landscape appearance. The combined factors of growth and plant appearance are used to determine the irrigation category. If a plant shows no differences between treatments, we report this, but recommend that it be placed in the WUCOLS Low category. Plants that score well on low water are awarded our Blue Ribbon™ for excellence.

We have added results on plants evaluated through 2019 to the WUCOLS database, with our most current results, which may be used in MWELo packages, found in the Plant Indexes on our website. Currently, we have completed water-use evaluations on 200 plants in sun and shade, allowing these to now be used in MWELo-compliant landscapes.



## San Diego Chapter Member Milestones

Congratulations to the following companies for reaching membership milestones this month.

**19 Year Member**  
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**2 Year Members**  
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# CLCA San Diego Chapter Life Members

Thank you to the following Life Members for their continued support of the association.

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John Mohns  
Randy Newhard  
Daniel Olson

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William Schnetz  
Mark Schroeder

Gary Weems  
Keith Wilhite  
Glenn Wilhite

# 25+ Year CLCA San Diego Chapter Members

Thanks to the following Chapter Members for their continued support for over 25 years.

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