

Changes coming to autopay

Customers using a credit/debit card or other fee-based service for autopay need to switch to eCheck or ACH before July 1. Visit IRWD.com/billpay.

pipelines

MAY 2025



Irvine Ranch
Water District



Lemonade berry

Save the date

Plant a Salad Bowl Garden

Saturday, June 28
10 – 11:30 a.m.

Learn how to plant the makings of a salad in your own backyard at this workshop co-hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Orange County.

Sign-up required:
IRWD.com/events

Make your life easier with autopay



How much time do you spend paying bills each month? If you're looking for a hassle-free solution, why not give automatic payments a try?

IRWD's autopay service is free for customers using eCheck or ACH to pay their water bills. And signing up is easy. (Note: Credit/debit cards will not be accepted for autopay effective July 1.)

1. Log in/create an online profile at IRWD.com/paymybill.
2. Select the autopay icon to the left of the screen.
3. Click "add schedule."
4. Select "add new" and add your banking information.
5. Fill out the "frequency" section as "bill amount on the due date" and click "create autopay."

For more information, go to IRWD.com/billpay.

Sprinklers plotting against you? We can help!

Irrigation systems are shadowy creatures. Lurking underground, they pop to life in the dead of night — leaving little trace in the morning of where they've been or how much water they've wasted.

Like many IRWD customers, Steve Epstein had suspicions about his system.

"It looked like the sprinklers were spraying on my front walkway and sidewalk," he said. "I'm not that handy, and I thought I really needed someone to figure this out."

Epstein is one of nearly 200 customers in the past year to take advantage of IRWD's Sprinkler Repair Program, which provides expert help and pays half the cost of qualified repairs.

"The 50% was my driver," Epstein said. "Usually, when someone says 50% off, they hike the rate up by 75%. But this was an honest evaluation. The quote was thorough and reasonable, so I did it all."



For information about the program and to sign up, go to IRWD.com/sprinklerrepair. Visit IRWD.com/rebates to learn about other programs and incentives to help you save water and money on your landscape.

If a landscape renovation is in your future, look for design tools, plant lists and more at IRWD.com/landscape and visit Yardtopia.com for inspiration.

Congratulations, Fix a Leak winners

Thank you to all the water savers who participated in this year's Fix a Leak Sweepstakes. This year, we saw record-breaking participation with 183 entries!

Whenever we save water, we save money and we all become winners — but these eight lucky customers also took home a \$100 Home Depot gift card prize:

- Jeffrey Andrews
- Everlyn Choi
- Kristine Drouillard
- Adam Gilbert
- Gabriel Guizar
- David Joseph
- James Lam
- Won Yoo

Remember, you don't need to wait for Fix a Leak Week to check for leaks around your home. Visit [IRWD.com/checkforleaks](https://www.irwd.com/checkforleaks) for our helpful video series.



Q: We've got a big family and although we try to save water, we're often in the Inefficient tier for water use. What can we do?

A: IRWD calculates customer water budgets based on property type, the estimated number of residents per household, and default area of landscape.

If your family is larger than the base number of residents for your home, you may qualify for a variance to increase your water budget. The base number of residents for apartments is two; for single-family homes, it is four; and for attached homes and condominiums, it's three.

Visit [IRWD.com/variance](https://www.irwd.com/variance) for more information, or to apply for a review of your account. Be sure to upload the appropriate documentation required.

Ask Juan



Q: Juan, I've got aphids on my citrus trees. What should I do?

A: One of the best eco-friendly methods to manage pests on fruit trees and other plants is to make your own insecticidal soap spray using liquid castile soap, made from olive, hemp, and other vegetable oils. Mix 1 tablespoon of soap per quart of water. You can also use neem oil or peppermint oil sprays. It's helpful to remove

infected leaves, stems and branches, too. When using pruning shears or other tools, make sure to clean and sterilize them after use. For more information, go to ipm.ucanr.edu.

Got landscape questions? Email askjuan@IRWD.com or ask on Facebook, X or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/irwdcommunity).

California native corner

Juan's May plant: black elderberry

Black elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) is a native winter deciduous shrub or small tree that was used by the indigenous people of California for food, medicine, dyes and crafting. Its blooming clusters of cream or yellow flowers in summer transform into small dark berries that droop from the branches in autumn, making it a great addition to any pollinator or edible garden. Plant it from a 1-gallon container and have a 15-foot tree in your garden in three years.



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