



**CUPERTINO**

# LANDSCAPE WATER-EFFICIENCY CHECKLIST

Community Development Department  
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 Cupertino, CA 95014

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 planning@cupertino.org  
 http://cupertino.org/planning

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Site Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Landscape Area (square feet):

Turf Area:

Non-Turf Plant Area:

Special Landscape Area:

Water Feature Wet Surface Area:  
 If > 10% of landscaped area, water budget calculation required with landscape project submittal.

**Landscape area:** All the planting areas, turf areas, and water features in a landscape installation. The landscape area does not include footprints of buildings or structures, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, decks, patios, gravel or stone walks, other pervious or non-pervious hardscapes, and other non-irrigated areas designated for non-development (e.g., open spaces and existing wildland vegetation).

**Turf:** A ground cover surface consisting of non-native grass species that is customarily mowed. Annual bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, red fescue, and tall fescue are examples of cool-season turf grasses. Bermuda grass, kikuyu grass, seashore paspalum, St. Augustine grass, zoysia grass, and buffalo grass are warm-season turf grasses.

See reverse side for other definitions.

**NOTE:** If landscape area exceeds 2,500 sq. ft., a landscape project submittal shall be required. If no landscaping is proposed, enter "0" above and proceed directly to the signature block at the bottom of this form.

Landscape Parameter	Requirements	Project Compliance
<b>Turf</b>	Total turf area shall not exceed 25% of the landscape area, or 1,250 square feet, whichever is lesser in area.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [If no, Water budget calculation required with landscape project submittal]
	All portions of turf areas shall be wider than eight (8) feet.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	Turf (if utilized) is limited to slopes not exceeding 15%.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>Non-Turf</b>	At least 80% of non-turf area shall consist of native or low water use plants.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [If no, Water budget calculation required with landscape project submittal]
<b>Hydrozones</b>	Plants with similar water needs shall be grouped within hydrozones. Each hydrozone shall be controlled by a separate valve.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [Plants can be grouped per Table 14.15.050(C)]
<b>Irrigation System</b>	Systems shall be designed and maintained to minimize water waste (e.g., runoff, low head drainage, overspray). Low-volume irrigation shall be utilized in non-turf areas. Irrigation shall only occur between the hours of 8:00 pm and 10:00 am.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [If no, Provide explanation on back]
<b>Soil</b>	A minimum of eight (8) inches of non-compacted topsoil shall be available in planted areas.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [If no, Provide explanation on back]
	Soil amendments, such as compost or fertilizer, shall be appropriately added according to the soil conditions at the project site and based on what is appropriate for the selected plants.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [If no, Provide explanation on back]
<b>Mulch</b>	A minimum two (2)-inch layer of mulch shall be applied on all exposed soil surfaces of planting areas, except in areas of direct seeding application (e.g. hydro-seed).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [If no, Provide explanation on back]

I am aware of available informational resources regarding native and low water use plants, irrigation efficiency, and other aspects of water-efficient landscaping. I certify that the information provided on this checklist is correct, and the installed landscape complies with the requirements of Chapter 14.15. I also understand that any changes to the project will necessitate a new checklist.

Signature of property owner or authorized representative \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This checklist implements the requirements of Chapter 14.15, Landscape Ordinance, of the Cupertino Municipal Code. The responses provided will be evaluated to determine whether the proposed landscape is generally consistent with the ordinance's water-efficiency goals.

## Applicant Comments

Use additional paper if necessary

<p><b>Staff Evaluation</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Approved</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved</p>	<p><b>Staff Comments</b></p>          <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature <span style="float: right;">_____</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Date</p>
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## Select Definitions

**Hydrozone:** A portion of the landscaped area having plants with similar water needs. A hydrozone may be irrigated or non-irrigated.

**Low-volume irrigation:** The application of irrigation water through a system of tubing or lateral lines and low-volume emitters such as drip and bubblers. Certain rotary emitters designed for highly efficient water distribution, and situated to irrigate low water use plants, may also be included in this definition at the discretion of the Planning Office.

**Low water use plant:** A plant species whose demonstrated water needs are compatible with local climate and soil conditions such that regular supplemental irrigation is not required to sustain the plant after it has become established. Any species classified as "very low water use" and "low water use" by WUCOLS, having a regionally adjusted plant factor of 0.0 through 0.3, shall be categorically deemed a low water use plant.

**Native plant:** A plant indigenous to a specific area of consideration. For the purpose of this division, the term will refer to plants indigenous to the coastal ranges of Central and Northern California, and more specifically to such plants that are suited to the ecology of the present or historic natural community of the project's vicinity.

**Special landscape area:** An area of the landscape dedicated solely to edible plants, areas irrigated with recycled water, water features using recycled water and areas dedicated to active play such as parks, sports fields, golf courses, and where turf provides a playing surface.

**Turf:** A ground cover surface consisting of non-native grass species that is customarily mowed. Annual bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, red fescue, and tall fescue are examples of cool-season turf grasses. Bermuda grass, kikuyu grass, seashore paspalum, St. Augustine grass, zoysia grass, and buffalo grass are warm-season turf grasses.

**Water feature:** A landscape design element where open water performs an aesthetic or recreational function. Water features include ponds, fountains, waterfalls and artificial streams. Also includes spas and swimming pools that are ancillary to single-family, two-family and multi-family residential uses.

**Wet surface area:** The surface area of that portion of a water feature that functions to contain water, such as the water surface of a swimming pool, spa, or garden pond. For a fountain or other feature with flowing water, wet surface area shall be measured as a two dimensional plane bounded by the perimeter of the area where water has been designed to flow.