



North Texas
Municipal Water District

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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The North Texas Municipal Water District recommends using mulch and compost to reduce watering needs for landscapes and help moderate soil temperatures

(Wylie, Texas-October 24, 2011) As the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) prepares to initiate its Stage 3 water management strategies on November 1, 2011, NTMWD officials urge consumers to use 4 to 6 inches of mulch around planted areas. A good layer of mulch reduces the amount of water needed to keep the ground moist, which is important at a time when NTMWD consumers will be limited to landscape watering only once every two weeks November 1st through March 31st. Consumers should follow their city specific ordinances and drought strategies.

According to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the use of mulch, such as bark, compost, or even lava rock conserves water by significantly reducing moisture evaporation from the soil. In addition, mulch also helps moderate soil temperatures in both hot and cold weather.

“Landscape watering represents one of the largest uses of water by consumers, and over 50 percent of that water is wasted through overwatering and misdirected or broken sprinkler heads. Especially during the current drought, we must find ways to use water wisely and reduce water waste,” said Denise Hickey, Public Relations Coordinator with the NTMWD. “NTMWD urges all of our consumers to use mulch and compost year round for both landscape maintenance and water conservation,” Hickey added.

The cities of Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano, and Richardson have joined together to create *Texas Pure* mulch and compost produced from city and residential landscape clippings. For more information on *Texas Pure*, visit www.texaspureproducts.com. You can also find information about efficient landscape watering practices by visiting the Texas Agrilife Extension Service website at www.agrilifeextension.tamu.edu. For a complete listing of native and adapted plant varieties, visit Collin County Master Gardeners at www.ccmgatx.org.

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