

City of Manteca – Public Works Department

Lawn-to-Garden FAQs

How much does it cost to convert a lawn to a California friendly landscape?

Your new garden can range from very inexpensive up to \$15 per sq. ft., depending on how much of the work you do yourself and whether you buy inexpensive or expensive materials. The choice is yours.

My lawn has been dead for several months. Do I still qualify for the program?

If your lawn is dead you do not qualify for this program.

What plants can be used for this program?

Plants can be chosen from over 1,500 plants listed on the two following websites, all suitable to our semi-arid region:

- [Water Wise Gardening](#)
- [BeWaterWise.com/Garden Soft](#)

Any plant not listed on these two websites, or our L2G approved [list](#), requires pre-approval by the City of Manteca.

If I replace plants other than turf, will these qualify for the incentive?

No, the specific purpose of this incentive is to assist Manteca residents to get rid of that water thirsty lawn.

Can I use traditional turf grass as part of my new landscape?

Only new landscape containing no turf grass will be eligible for rebate.

How much plant material needs to be planted?

Plant material must cover at least 65% of the new landscaped area by the time the plants are mature, or after approximately two years.

Is mulch required between plants?

Yes, mulch helps prevent runoff and holds moisture in the soil. Your new landscape must be 100% covered with materials such as plants, compost and mulch, and permeable hardscape.

Do I have to replace my irrigation system?

Your irrigation system must be an efficient system, as described on the [Design Requirements](#). This means you must use drip, bubblers, rotating stream nozzles, or hand water.

Additional rebates may be available at www.watersmart.com for rotators and irrigation controllers.

I live in a Homeowners Association (HOA) and do not have an individual City of Manteca account. Can I still qualify for the program?

If it is a common area that will be re-landscaped the HOA will need to apply. If it is your personal area of the complex then you may be eligible to apply.

How do I effectively kill my lawn?

Refer to our [Kill Your Lawn and Haul it Away](#) page on this subject.

When will I receive the incentive check?

If approved, payments will typically be made within 60 calendar days after the City of Manteca has been notified that the landscape installation was complete and an inspection for completeness has been performed.

Can you recommend a landscape contractor?

We cannot recommend particular contractors, we suggest that you shop around and look online for reviews of any contractor you are considering to use. Your best bet is to look around your neighborhood and find a drought tolerant garden that you like. Ask the owner of that property which landscaping contractor they used and about their experience.