Are you up to the Dry Tropics Watersmart Outdoor Water use challenge?

How many do you do?

1. Adjust watering schedule to match seasonal weather conditions and landscape requirements
2. Add organic matter to the soil (including top dressing the lawn) to improve moisture and nutrient holding capacity
3. Group plants with similar water needs together (Hydro-Zoning)
4. Ensure outdoor taps, hoses, and irrigation systems do not leak
5. Install and use targeted irrigation rather than handheld hoses or sprinkler systems
6. Lightly fertilise lawns to reduce watering need
7. Improve the water absorption of clay soils by treating with gypsum products
8. Take the catcher off the mower and leave the grass clippings on the lawn to protect against evaporation
9. Place mulch on garden beds and potted plants to reduce evaporation and increase organic matter in the soils
10. Plant vegetation suitable to the climatic conditions
11. Grow plants best suited to the soil
12. Reduce lawn area to reduce watering requirement
13. Install an onsite wastewater treatment and irrigation system
14. Water the garden in the early morning or in the evening to reduce evaporation
15. Add organic matter to the soil (including top dressing the lawn) to improve moisture and nutrient holding capacity
16. Install a greywater system on the property
17. Install and use a bore for outdoor purposes
18. Place pool cover over pool when not in use to reduce evaporation
19. Use a handheld hose to water the lawn rather than a sprinkler system
20. Lightly fertilise lawns to reduce watering need
21. Improve the water absorption of clay soils by treating with gypsum products
22. Take the catcher off the mower and leave the grass clippings on the lawn to protect against evaporation
23. Install an automatic irrigation system with a rain switch or soil moisture sensor that shuts off when watering is not required
24. Place mulch on garden beds and potted plants to reduce evaporation and increase organic matter in the soils
25. Plant vegetation suitable to the climatic conditions
26. Grow plants best suited to the soil
27. Reduce lawn area to reduce watering requirement
28. Install a rainwater collection and storage system
29. Only backwash pool filter as frequently as required
30. Use soil wetters and water crystals to ensure garden soil absorbs as much water as possible
31. Add humectants to sandy soils to attract moisture from air spaces in the soil
32. Ensure taps are fully turned off
33. Install an automatic irrigation system with a rain switch or soil moisture sensor that shuts off when watering is not required
34. Place pool cover over pool when not in use to reduce evaporation
35. Plant vegetation suitable to the climatic conditions
36. Grow plants best suited to the soil
37. Install and use a bore for outdoor purposes
38. Place pool cover over pool when not in use to reduce evaporation
39. Set up a convenient rainwater irrigation system
40. Monitor and test soil moisture to determine if watering is required
41. Water the roots of plants rather than the leaves
42. Sweep driveways and pathways rather than hosing down
43. Landscape using swales to trap and direct rainwater and runoff
44. Install a tap timer for sprinkler and irrigation systems
45. Check for leaks around pool/spa pumps
46. Divert washing machine water to the garden
47. Identify and promptly fix pool leaks
48. Direct downsputs and other runoff towards vegetation and to pools
49. Minimise paving of solid outdoor areas as this increases heat radiation and evaporation
50. Regularly remove weeds from garden and lawn areas which compete with plants for water
51. Avoid planting young plants or new grass in winter when the ground is harder, as the high heat and disturbed soil will lose more water
52. Minimise the use of potted plants in preference for plants in the ground to reduce water requirements
53. Only water lawn when it is showing signs of stress, and water in long, slow soakings to promote deep root systems
54. Water plants less frequently, but more heavily, to promote root growth and drought tolerance
55. Use only the amount of water appropriate for the soil type
56. Wash car less often
57. Wash pets on the lawn
58. Use porous paving to increase water retention on the property
59. Design driveways and paved areas to slope towards the lawn or a garden bed if the soil is sandy to allow rainwater to water these areas
60. Wash the car and other vehicles on the lawn to reduce additional watering requirements
61. Use self-watering pots that trap excess water for later use
62. Ensure pool is not overfilled when refilling
63. Reduce the amount of water splashed out of the pool when jumping/playing about
64. Avoid installation of ornamental water features
65. Avoid the purchase and use of recreational toys that require a steady stream of water
66. Minimise the use of potted plants in preference for plants in the ground to reduce water requirements
67. Use porous paving to increase water retention on the property
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