

This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

watersmartinnovations.com



Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL)



Daniel Muelrath
Water Resources Sustainability Manager
City of Santa Rosa
707-543-3985



What is QWEL?

- ▶ Water management training series for landscapers
 - Twelve modules (21 hours total)
 - *Topics include: water supply sources, soils, plants, water budgets, irrigation systems, irrigation scheduling, troubleshooting, selling water management to customers, etc.*
 - Final exam: 120 questions
 - Passing grade = 75% or better

Background

- ▶ North Coast Water Conservation Group
 - Landscape Water Advisory Group: A mix of landscape professionals, water agencies, cities and educators

- ▶ Major Contributors:
 - Sonoma County Water Agency
 - City of Santa Rosa
 - Marin Municipal Water District
 - CLCA (North Coast Chapter)
 - City of Petaluma
 - College of Marin
 - Santa Rosa Junior College
 - Toro Irrigation Company

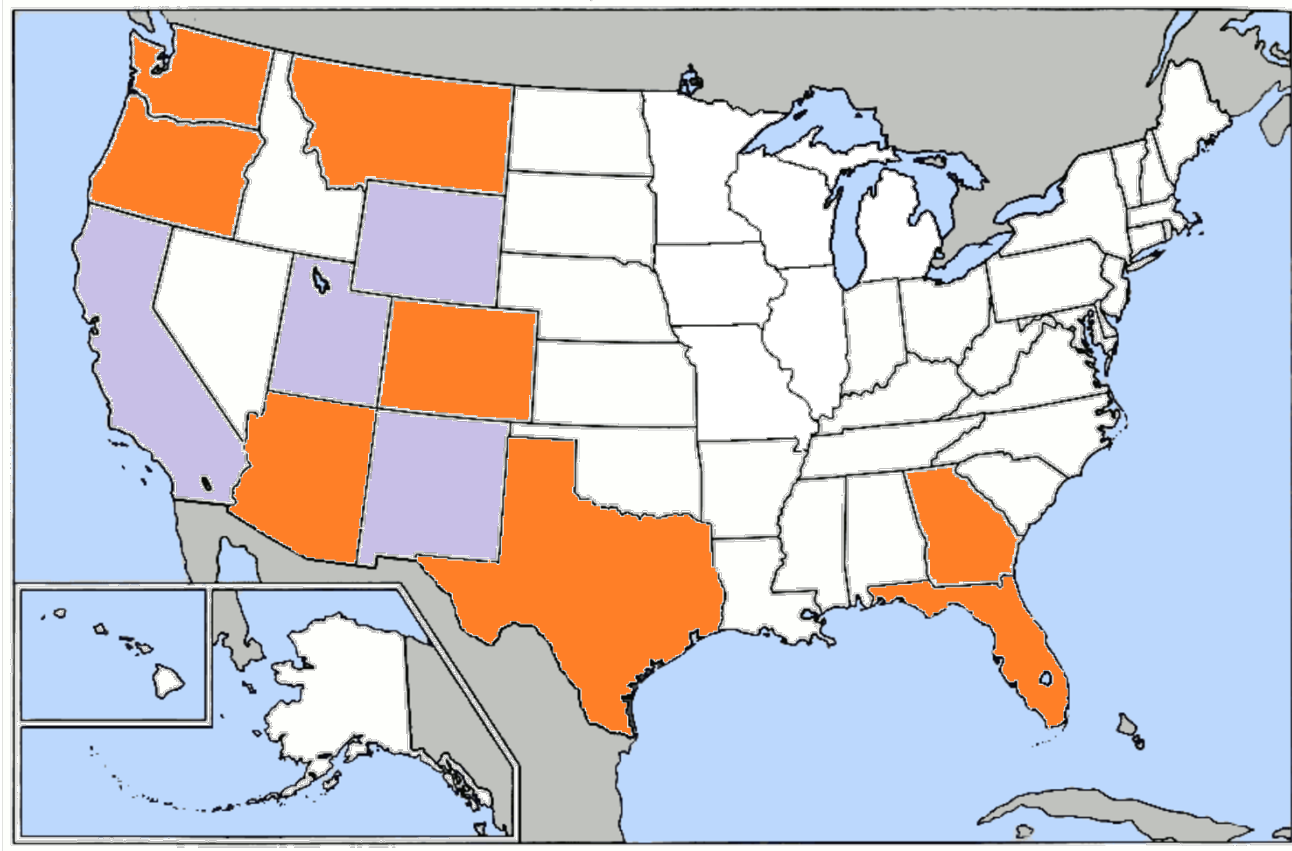
Creation of QWEL

- ▶ 2004–2005
 - Each agency was doing separate trainings
 - Outline of our training program complete
- ▶ 2006–2007
 - Created PowerPoints and Manual
 - Beta tested twice resulting in an overhaul of training based on feedback (Spanish Beta too)
- ▶ 2008
 - QWEL receives US EPA WaterSense recognition
 - QWEL is taught at the Santa Rosa Junior College and College of Marin
 - Over 350 Qualified Water Efficient Landscapers

2nd Program in
the Nation!!!



Where is QWEL Offered?



Purple: Current States Offering QWEL

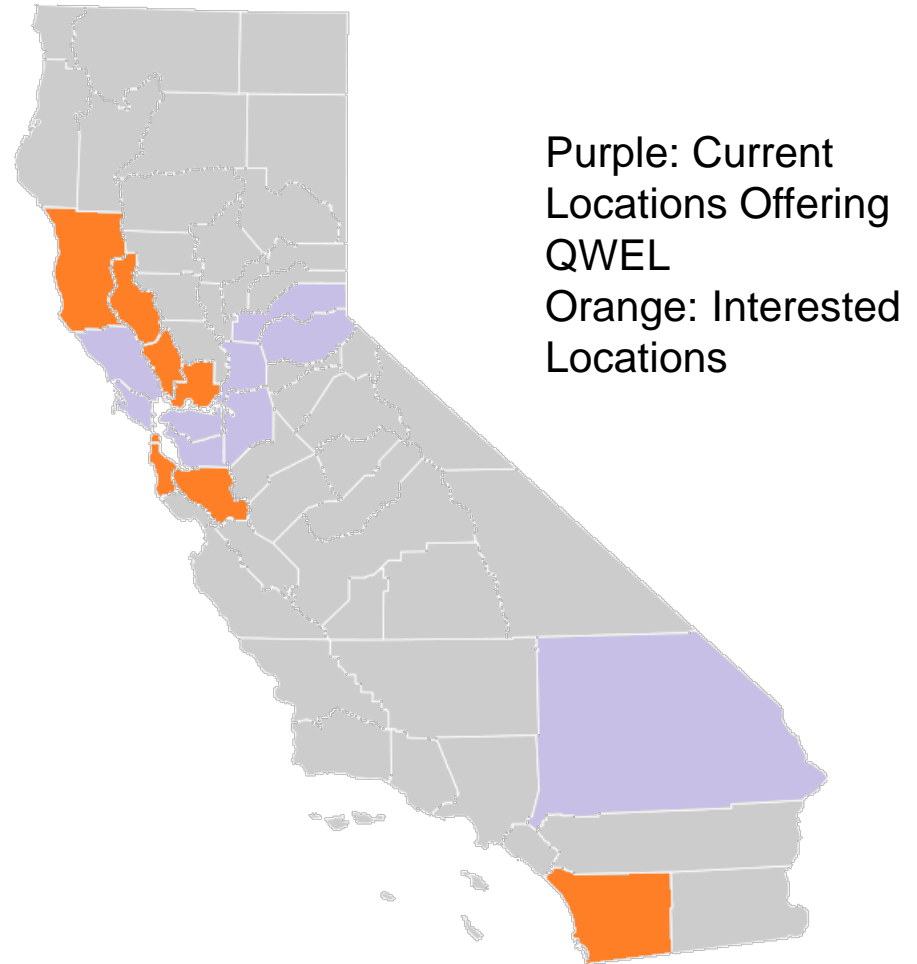
Orange: Interested States

California Locations

Partnerships:

- Water Agencies
- Municipalities
- Job Corps
- Community Colleges

- SCWA & City of Santa Rosa
- Santa Rosa Junior College
- Marin Municipal Water District
- College of Marin
- Contra Costa Water District
- Zone 7 Water Agency
- Delta Community College
- Inland Empire Job Corps



QWEL & New Norm

- ▶ Connect people (including landscapers) to your local water supply.



QWEL & New Norm

- ▶ Efficient Irrigation



QWEL & New Norm

- ▶ Efficient Plants are as important as efficient irrigation



QWEL & New Norm

- ▶ Don't forget about soil too...



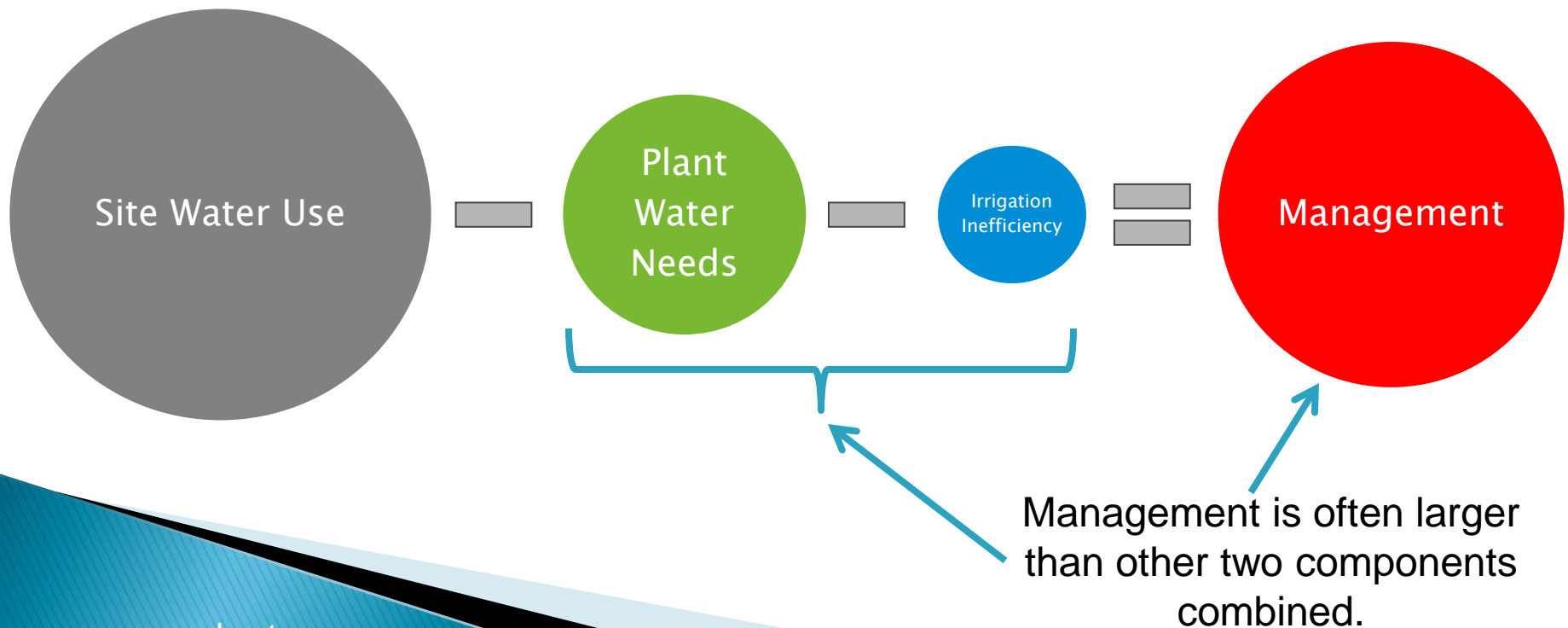
QWEL & New Norm

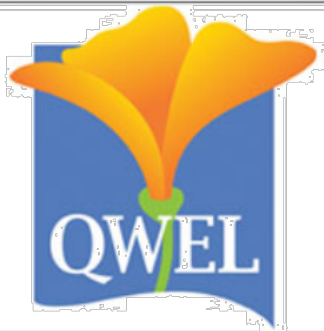
- ▶ Embracing new technology



QWEL & New Norm

- ▶ Great irrigation, proper plants, rich soil means nothing without WATER MANAGEMENT!





Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper

Mission

About

News

Trainings

Graduates

CEU Submittal

Resources

Curriculum

Offer QWEL in Your Area

Mission

"The Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper training presents an affordable proactive local approach to reducing landscape water demand. QWEL provides graduates with knowledge in water efficient and sustainable landscape practices including water management and preservation of other valuable resources."

Landscape water-use represents one of the largest components of urban water demand. Through the Qualified Water-Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) Program, local landscape professionals are making a positive impact towards reducing landscape water demand by becoming more water efficient in landscape design, maintenance, and operation. QWEL provides 21 hours of educational foundation based on principals of proper plant selection for the local climate, irrigation system design and maintenance, and irrigation system programming and operation.

Both the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) WaterSense



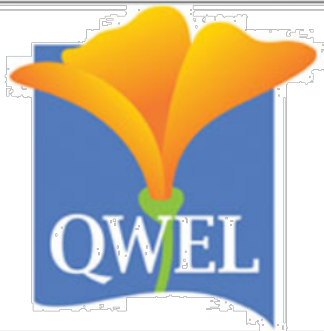
"The class was great and I will put it to good use!" -Valerie Silva

Search for:

Search

Recent Posts

- [Rainwater Catchment Trainings July 28](#)



Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper

[Mission](#)[About](#)[News](#)[Trainings](#)[Graduates](#)[CEU Submittal](#)[Resources](#)[Curriculum](#)[Offer QWEL in Your Area](#)

Sonoma County

Select the location where the work will be performed to find local graduates.

- Cloverdale ([Residential](#)) ([Commercial](#))
- Healdsburg ([Residential](#)) ([Commercial](#))
- Petaluma ([Residential](#)) ([Commercial](#))
- Rohnert Park/Cotati ([Residential](#)) ([Commercial](#))
- Santa Rosa ([Residential](#)) ([Commercial](#))
- Sonoma Valley ([Residential](#)) ([Commercial](#))
- West County ([Residential](#)) ([Commercial](#))
- Windsor ([Residential](#)) ([Commercial](#))

[All North Bay Graduates](#)



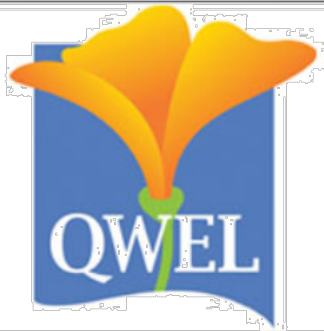
"The class was great and I will put it to good use!" -Valerie Silva

Search for:

[Search](#)

Recent Posts

- [Rainwater Catchment Trainings July 28](#)



Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper

[Mission](#)[About](#)[News](#)[Trainings](#)[Graduates](#)[CEU Submittal](#)[Resources](#)[Curriculum](#)[Offer QWEL in Your Area](#)

Download Manual and Presentations

**In order to download these materials, you must agree to the
Terms and Conditions**

English

Manual (English):

- [Manual](#)

Audit Forms (English):

- [Audit Worksheet- Straight Sided](#)

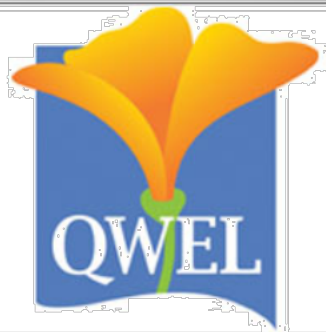


"The class was great and I will put it to good use!" -Valerie Silva

Search for:

Recent Posts

- [Rainwater Catchment Trainings July 28](#)



Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper



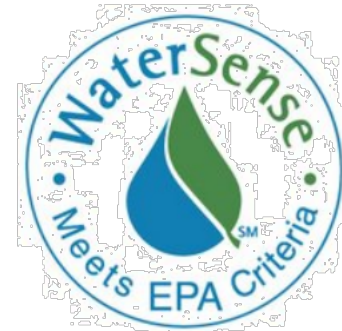
[Mission](#) [About](#) [News](#) [Trainings](#) [Graduates](#) [CEU Submittal](#) [Resources](#) [Curriculum](#) [Offer QWEL in Your Area](#)

Mission

"The Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper training presents an affordable proactive local approach to reducing landscape water demand. QWEL provides graduates with knowledge in water efficient and sustainable landscape practices including water management and preservation of other valuable resources."

Landscape water-use represents one of the largest components of urban water demand. Through the Qualified Water-Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) Program, local landscape professionals are making a positive impact towards reducing landscape water demand by becoming more water efficient in landscape design, maintenance, and operation. QWEL provides 21 hours of educational foundation based on principals of proper plant selection for the local climate, irrigation system design and maintenance, and irrigation system programming and operation.

Both the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) WaterSense



"The class was great and I will put it to good use!" -Valerie Silva

Search for:

Recent Posts

- [Rainwater Catchment Trainings July 28](#)

Intranet Resources

▶ Instructors

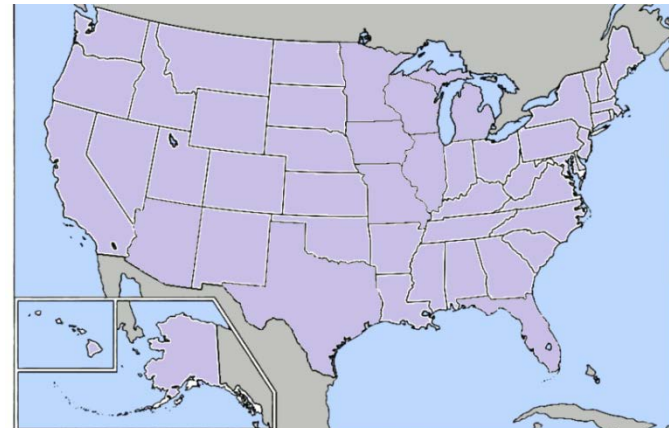
- Tests
- Certificates
- Marketing Material
- Etc.

▶ Graduates

- Logo
 - Scheduling calculator
 - Additional resources
- 

QWEL and the Future

- ▶ Partnerships, Education and Communication are Key!
- ▶ Future Plans for QWEL
 - Continue to roll out to other locations
 - Add advanced specialties/modules:
 - Graywater (Fall 2012)
 - Advance water management (2013)
 - Rainwater harvesting (TBD)



QWEL in Your Area

- ▶ **FREE**
 - QWEL can be use by your city/agency/district
- ▶ Terms and Conditions of Use
- ▶ Remember...QWEL is holistic and already recognized by the US EPA as a WaterSense irrigation auditor training program
- ▶ QWEL Website
 - www.qwel.net
- ▶ For more details call or email:
 - 707-543-3988 or dmuelrath@srcity.org