



WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE  
April 2016

**TURFGRASS VARIETIES MEET CALIFORNIA PLANT FACTORS**

Stover Seed is a supporting member of the Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance (TWCA) an organization that tests and qualifies new turfgrass varieties that meet water conservation standards. TWCA has just announced the approval of new irrigation plant factors for both cool and warm season grasses.

Plant factors were developed for both optimal and deficit irrigation conditions. The range provided by TWCA is based on extensive watering gradient studies. Deficit irrigation in the TWCA provided plant factors is, essentially a survival regime with low turf quality. In contrast, optimal irrigation will produce acceptable turf quality. It is important to keep in mind that TWCA qualified plant factors only apply to TWCA qualified varieties. There may be other grasses to which TWCA plant factors are applicable, however if they are not recognized by TWCA it is a risk to apply these plant factors to them.

| PLANT FACTORS FOR THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS |                    |                    |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Turf Type                                  | Optimal Irrigation | Deficit Irrigation |
| Cool Season                                | 0.56               | 0.48               |
| Warm Season                                | 0.42               | 0.36               |

*Approved Plant Factors for TWCA Qualified Varieties*

Plant factors (PFs) are an essential element in calculating a landscape's compliance with the updates that occurred to the Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) in December of 2015. TWCA plant factors are 35% lower than the plant factors of conventional grasses which means landscapes are eligible to use more turf with the same amount of water budgeted.

| STOVER SEED QUALIFIED TURFGRASS VARIETIES |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Warm Season</b>                        | Princess 77 Hybrid Bermudagrass        |
| <b>Cool Season</b>                        | Manhattan 5 Perennial Ryegrass         |
|   | Triple Crown Extreme Tall Fescue Blend |
|   | Aquavita Tall Fescue                   |
|   | Rhambler SRP Tall Fescue               |
|   | Aquaduct Tall Fescue                   |
|   | Bighorn GT Hard Fescue                 |

What does this mean for the landscape professional?

- TWCA qualified grasses, both cool and warm, will be able to make up a larger part of any landscape than other turfgrasses.
- TWCA qualified cool season grasses are allowable for medians and parkways in California.

Additional references:

Read the updated MWELo at [www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/](http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/) Learn all that you can about the limits on turf, Appendix D (the prescriptive option for landscapes smaller than 2,500 sq. ft.). With the prescriptive option, many homeowners and landscapers are going to be tempted to use the Appendix D option rather than actually doing landscape compliance calculations.

To calculate MWELo compliance, get the TWCA created calculator at [www.tgwa.org/education/mwelo-calculator/](http://www.tgwa.org/education/mwelo-calculator/)

[www.tgwa.org](http://www.tgwa.org)

[www.stoverseed.com](http://www.stoverseed.com)

