RIVERSIDE, CA – Oct. 13, 2011 – Residents will get a second opportunity to pick up climate-appropriate plants priced up to half off at the Inland Empire Garden Friendly Plant Sales being held at The Home Depot stores throughout the Inland Empire. The sale will be Saturday, Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition to the sale, vendors will be on-hand to answer questions, and UC Master Gardeners will be at most stores.

“Western’s partnership with The Home Depot and local water agencies to create the ‘Inland Empire Garden Friendly’ program is a victory for residents, who now have better access to buy water-wise plants,” said Western General Manager John V. Rossi.

The program goal is to provide local consumers with water-wise gardening education, as well as easily identifiable and accessible sources of climate-appropriate plant materials. In the spring, Western, along with other inland water and industry-related, nonprofit agencies joined forces with The Home Depot to develop the Inland Empire Garden Friendly program. A series of parking lot sale events were held at 10 store locations in April, May and June. These plants are specially tagged with the Inland Empire Garden Friendly logo (see above).

“Building on the program’s success this past spring, we are grateful that The Home Depot continues to partner with Western to help residents increase their knowledge and use of trees, perennials, shrubs and groundcovers that use significantly less water and are just as attractive as the more ‘thirsty’ alternatives,” said Water Efficiency Specialist Pam Pavela, Western’s liaison to the program team.

“The fall promotion serves two purposes,” said Brian Parker, The Home Depot’s regional manager, who continued, “The first is to keep the momentum of the Inland Empire Garden Friendly program going and second, we want to reinforce that fall is the best time to plant. If we can run a promotion that saves people money, saves people water and gives them the best chance for a successful planting, then why not do it in a big way.”

The University of California Master Gardener Program is dedicated to facilitating excellence in County Master Gardener Programs by increasing the professionalism of coordinators and volunteers. More than 45 California counties have UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Programs with UC trained Master Gardener volunteers.

Western has developed this regional program with the California State University - San Bernardino Water Resources Institute, Chino Basin Water Conservation District, Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District.

Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.

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