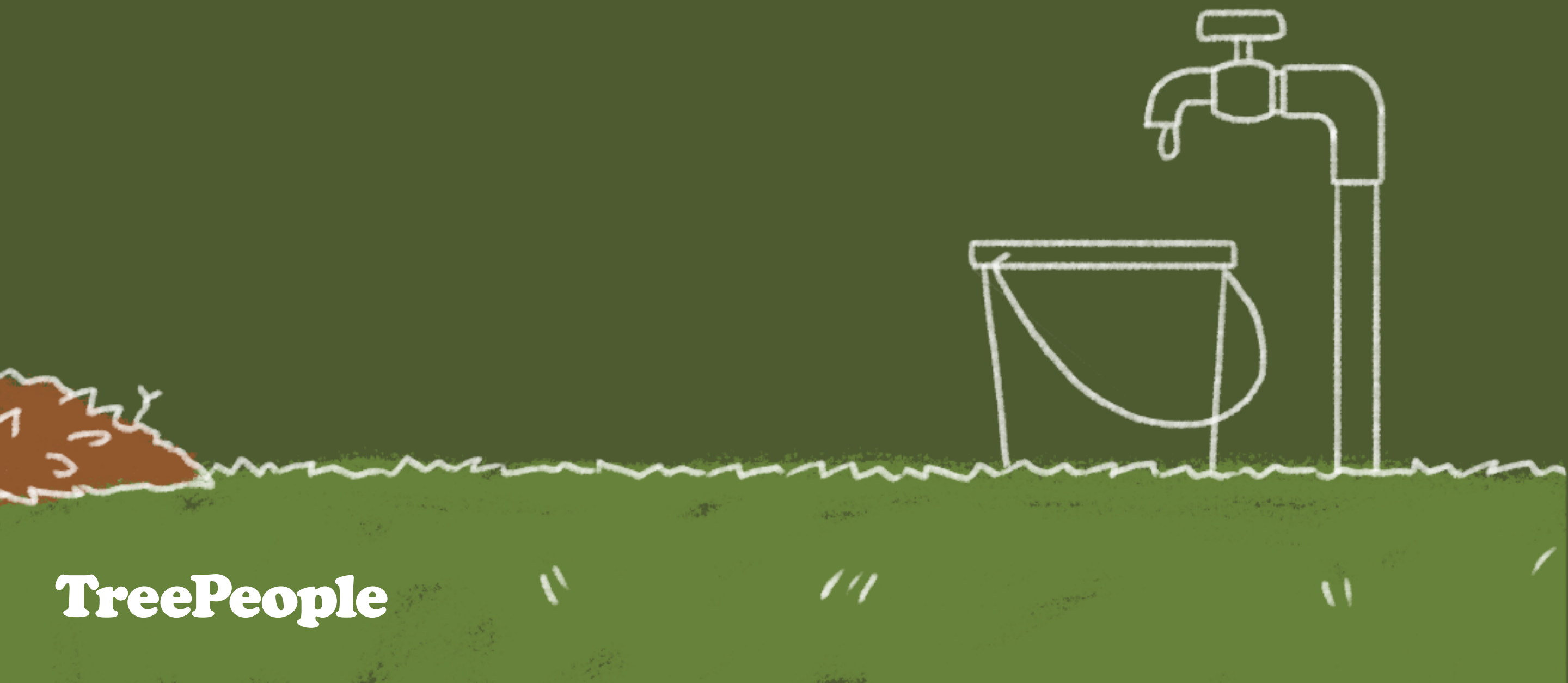**TreePeople**

Alternatives to Grass

Grass in our yards is a huge user of water and causes a lot of waste.

During these times of drought, it's imperative that we save water by removing lawns and replacing them with any of these great alternatives that will require a lot less water once they get established.

(Looking at your yard plans – think about how to reduce grass by growing it only in places where you actually will use it, and then replace it with something similar that uses less water).

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Groundcovers:

- can be mowed.
- flowering and great as pollinators.

Creeping Thyme
(Thymus serpyllum)

Dymondia
(Dymondia margaretae)

Kurapia
(Lippia nodiflora)

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Low-growing perennial native:

- can be mowed.

Yarrow *(Achillea millefolium var. occidentalis)*

Yarrow will produce long stems of flowers if left untouched, but if mowed, it creates a fern-like carpet.

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Alternative grasses:

- use 75% less water than typical perennial tufted grasses.

UC Verde Buffalo Grass
(Buchloe dactyloides 'UC Verde')

Blue Grama Grass
(Bouteloua gracilis)

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Mulch

The cheapest and easiest to maintain!

Rather than have a dead lawn, replace it with mulch. This doesn't resemble grass like planting a groundcover would, but it prevents evaporation and provides nutrients for the soil as the fungi, bacteria, and insects break it down.

You can obtain it for free by contacting local tree trimmers.

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Did you know?

In summer 2010, Los Angeles was losing about 100 gallons of water per person per day to the atmosphere through the evaporation and plant uptake of lawns and trees.

Lawns accounted for

70% of the water loss

while trees accounted for 30%, according to a University of Utah study published in Water Resources Research.

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While the University of Utah research showed that lawn watering led to the greatest share of evapotranspiration in Los Angeles, it also found that

Trees were the
water-saving heroes
of the study.

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MORE INFORMATION

For more information on how to do specific maintenance tasks, go to **treepeople.org/learn** or **bewaterwise.com** for downloadable how-tos, resources, videos, and more.

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