Water-Conscious Campus Landscaping

SDG 6 Water-conscious landscaping | Reporting year 2025

Uzbekistan State World Languages University (UzSWLU) designs and maintains its campus landscapes with Uzbekistan's dry, continental climate in mind. The University combines climate-suitable planting, zoned and efficient irrigation, and the reuse of water to keep its grounds green, shaded and comfortable for learning and recreation while minimizing water use. Landscape management is part of the University's Environmental Sustainability Policy (approved January 2021, reviewed March 2023), which commits the University to eco-friendly landscaping and to preserving native plant species within university areas.

Climate-suitable planting

In new and renewed planting, UzSWLU gives priority to locally adapted and drought-tolerant trees and shrubs that withstand hot summers and long periods without rainfall. Species such as juniper, acacia, elm and pine, together with hardy ornamental and hedge shrubs, provide resilient greenery with low irrigation needs once established. Planting is chosen for its suitability to local conditions as well as for its shade, ecological and visual value.

Mature trees are retained as the backbone of the campus landscape. Their canopy shades lawns, paths and planting beds, lowering soil temperature and evaporation and reducing the amount of water that planted areas need.

Examples of climate-suitable campus planting

Planting type	Examples	Role in reducing water demand
Trees	Juniper, acacia, elm, pine; fruit-bearing species recorded in the campus inventory	Deep-rooted, locally adapted species; canopy shades the ground and reduces evaporation
Shrubs	Ornamental and hedge shrubs	Used for borders and ground structure and in place of water-intensive lawn
Seasonal and perennial planting	Hardy perennials and seasonal flowers in designated beds	Limited to defined beds, with irrigation matched to the season

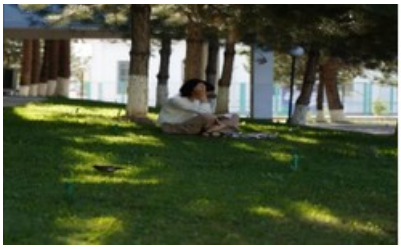
Replacing water-intensive lawn

To reduce the water needed for landscape maintenance, selected lawn areas within the campus grounds are being converted to shrub beds and other climate-appropriate planting. Decorative shrubs, hedge plants and hardy perennials provide structure, color and ground cover while requiring far less frequent watering than extensive turf. Lawns are kept where they serve recreation and campus life, and mixed beds and shrub borders create a more water-conscious balance across the grounds.

Zoned and efficient irrigation

Irrigation on campus is organized by zone, so that each type of planting receives only the water it needs:

- **Drip irrigation for trees, shrubs and planting beds.** Water is delivered directly to the root zone, avoiding runoff and surface evaporation.
- **Scheduled sprinkler irrigation for lawns.** Sprinklers serve lawn areas only and operate on a fixed schedule.
- **Watering at cooler times of day.** All irrigation takes place early in the morning or in the evening to reduce evaporation under Uzbekistan's hot conditions.
- **Seasonal adjustment.** Watering frequency is adjusted to the season and to the needs of each planted area, so that water is used where it most benefits plant growth.




Shaded campus lawns with sprinkler irrigation at UzSWLU

Reuse of water for landscape irrigation

Where the University's water reuse systems are in place, treated greywater and collected rainwater are used for landscape irrigation. The pilot greywater recycling system serving the Main Campus and Dormitory Complex, together with rainwater harvesting from building roofs, supplies water for irrigation and other non-potable uses, reducing reliance on fresh mains water for maintaining green spaces.

Campus stewardship

The Department of Ecology and Green Resources supports campus greening and biodiversity work, including annual tree planting, care of mature trees, maintenance of living plant collections, seedling distribution and the protection of habitats for birds and pollinating insects. Locally adapted species are also used in environmental education, helping students connect water-conscious landscaping with biodiversity and responsible resource management.

Evidence

- UzSWLU Environmental Sustainability Policy: https://uzswlu.uz/backend/web/uploads/pagepdf/icon/17310584693285.pdf
- Flora, fauna and campus planting inventory: https://uzswlu.uz/backend/web/uploads/pagepdf/icon/17839677543473.pdf
- Water Recycling Program Implementation: https://uzswlu.uz/backend/web/uploads/pagepdf/icon/17625288770747.pdf
- UzSWLU Water (WR) page: https://uzswlu.uz/en/water-wr