

Lawn Care

Water-Saving Tips

Homeowners and businesses can make significant reductions in outdoor water use simply by following watering basics for established lawns.

Advanced technology in irrigation delivery and control systems also improve efficiency and reduce waste. Property owners can save water by installing specialized sprinkler heads to more precisely deliver the water, adjusting irrigation timers for seasonal weather conditions or by using computer-controlled irrigation systems that automatically respond to daily changes in weather conditions.

Saving water also saves money, as water costs are reduced.

If hot weather continues for an extended period of time, or if watering restrictions are implemented in your community, the following recommendations may prove helpful to reducing your water usage:

- The best times to water your lawn are in the early morning or early evening when there is generally less wind and heat.
- The least desirable times are in the afternoon when water evaporates quickly because of heat, or late in the evening which can cause the lawn to stay wet all night encouraging disease development.
- Over-watering is much worse than under-watering.

- A quarter-inch (0.6 mm) of water every four to six weeks will keep the vital turfgrass crowns hydrated and capable of greening up when temperatures cool and moisture is again available. In most cases, this will not green up the turfgrass, but it will keep the turfgrass plant alive.
- Eliminate all traffic on the lawn especially during the heat of the day when foot traffic and even mowing can injure the turfgrass plants and cause almost immediate dehydration.
- Increase watering on areas near buildings and other heat reflecting surfaces and on high or sloped areas where wind can dry the lawn faster and water may not penetrate as deeply.
- If rain is expected turn off your sprinklers.
- Follow the one-third rule when mowing, removing no more than one-third of the turfgrass leaf blade.
- Mow less frequently and only in the early morning or evening when temperatures are cooler because turfgrass loses moisture after every mowing.
- Keep the mower blade sharp. Dull mower blades tear and shred the leaf blades of turfgrass rather than cutting them cleanly. Shredded leaf blades increase water losses.

This information was gathered from The Lawn Institute. www.thelawninstitute.org, and "Lawn & Landscape" www.lawnandlandscape.com.

