

Water Wisely



Should I water my yard?

You should water your lawn and gardens only when they need it! This saves you time and money, conserves water for other uses, and grows stronger plants with wider and deeper root systems.



How to Water

- Depending on rain, water deeply and infrequently once a week, allowing water to seep into the ground.
- Use a rain gauge to track how much rain your lawn and gardens received. Supplement any additional water needs through watering.
- Lawns use 1" to 1.5" of water per week during the growing season (May to October).
- Determine your sprinkler output by placing cans on the lawn and timing how long it takes for them to fill with an inch of water.
- When possible, use drip irrigation in gardens. Otherwise focus water to soil rather than foliage.

When to Water

- Between 6:00 AM and 10:00 AM to ensure the water soaks into the ground and doesn't evaporate.

Ways to Reduce Watering

- Add more organic matter to your soil to help it retain moisture.
- Add three inches of mulch to garden beds.
- Capture rainwater in rain barrels for future use.
- Use native and regional plants well suited for your yard conditions.

When in Drought

For fescue and ryegrass lawns:

- Allow the grass to go dormant (change from green to brown). If the grass feels fleshy but is brown in color, it will come back with cooler and wetter weather.
- Lightly water grass (about 1/2") every two weeks to keep moisture in the soil without breaking the dormancy.
- Keep grass tall to shade out the soil and help keep moisture. Don't mow during a drought, it will stress out and damage your lawn.
- Don't fertilizer or apply compost tea, this will break the dormancy too early!
- Healthy lawns can survive in a dormant state for four to six weeks without rainfall or irrigation.

For gardens:

- Water deeply (1") once a week in the early morning.
- Increase weeding to reduce water competition with desired plants.
- Don't fertilize or apply compost tea.
- Dead head flowering plants early to prevent it from using valuable energy and water forming seeds.