



Maintaining a Lawn during a Drought!

Lawns are the single biggest water users for a typical property. That means they offer the greatest potential for water savings! Here are a few tips that will help you reduce your water use and better manage your landscaping:

1. Mow lawns 2 ½ to 3 inches high once a week. Taller grass blades promote deeper roots and will shade the soil, resulting in less evaporation.
2. Use a lawn aerator to perforate the soil with small holes to increase air, water and nutrients infiltration into the root system and reduce runoff.
3. Apply less water to shaded areas. Lawn areas in the shade (north/east) will generally require 50 percent less water than lawns on the sunny side of the property.
4. Water between 12AM-6AM as it is cooler, the wind is calm and there is little evaporation.
5. Reduce fertilization and limit to the spring and fall. Actively growing plants use more water, and fertilizers can damage already stressed root systems. Consider using organic fertilizers for increased water savings.
6. Have your system audited - Hire a professional to conduct an irrigation audit and uniformity test to verify areas are being watered evenly and appropriately, and make necessary adjustments.
7. Hire local - Work with an irrigation professional that understands local environmental conditions and can help you choose low water plants and grass that will flourish in your climate and location.
8. Consider low volume, micro-irrigation for gardens, trees and shrubs - Drip (or trickle) irrigation, micro spray jets, micro-sprinklers and bubbler irrigation all apply a very small amount of water, slowly and precisely, minimizing evaporation, runoff and overspray.
9. Adjust sprinkler heads – Remove or correct obstructions that prevent sprinklers from distributing water evenly. Adjust sprinkler head positions and spray patterns to avoid watering sidewalks or structures and to provide necessary clearance over growing plants.
10. Check your sprinkler heads regularly to make sure they work properly. Repair broken, crooked or sunken heads and clogged nozzles. Adjust the spray pattern to prevent sprinklers from watering pavement.
11. Minimize foot traffic and equipment traffic on the lawn. Drought stressed turf is more easily damaged by traffic.
12. A mulching mower will leave clippings on the lawn as you mow to add nutrients back to the soil.

Safety Committee

The Board of Directors is still looking for **two (2) active volunteers** to join the Safety Committee to help address the communities concerns with the City's Planning Commission.

The Board of Directors needs active residents to donate their time and experience to help make the community a safer place. If you are interested please complete and submit the enclosed form by **Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2014.**