

Summer Watering Tips

AS THE TEMPERATURES RISE SO DOES WATER USE. JULY IS "SMART IRRIGATION MONTH"! PRACTICE THESE OUTDOOR WATER SAVING TIPS AND STAY COOL THIS SUMMER...



Don't water on windy days.

Water plus wind equals waste! If you water your lawn when it's windy, you will find the water going everywhere except where you want it to go! Wind also causes water to evaporate quickly.

Set a schedule.

Water your lawn and garden early in the morning or late evening, when temperatures are cooler, to minimize evaporation. Areas in the shade should be watered about 30 percent less than sunny areas.

Lawns only need about an inch of water per week to remain healthy.

Use a rain gauge to keep track of the amount of water your lawn gets and develop a watering schedule.



Avoid watering pavements and other non-landscape areas. Make sure sprinkler heads and parts are adjusted to water the grass and garden only. Consider choosing water-efficient drip irrigation for your trees, shrubs, and flowers. Watering at the roots is highly effective, so be careful not to overwater.



MAKE YOUR OWN RAIN GAUGE

It Can Be Fun! Here is an easy experiment that you can do at home.

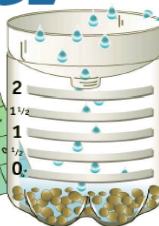
Materials:

- plastic soda bottle
- permanent marker
- **water**
- scissors
- handful of stones or gravel
- ruler

Directions:

1. Ask an adult to cut off the top section of the bottle.
2. To keep the bottle from tipping over, fill the bottom of the bottle with a handful of small stones or gravel. Then pour **water** to cover the stones and draw a line across the bottle and label it "0" to mark the base level.
3. Beginning at the base level, draw a few long lines to represent 1-inch measurements. Then draw shorter lines in between to represent half-inch measurements.
4. Place your rain gauge in an open area outdoors.
5. Be sure to maintain **water** at baseline level to make up for evaporation.
6. Measure the collected rainfall and record your results on a chart. Include the date, weather conditions (sunny, cloudy, rainy) and the amount of rainfall, if there is any.
7. Be sure to empty the bottle, maintaining the baseline level, each time you measure and record any collected rainfall.

RAINFALL CHART		
Nov. 10	Cloudy	1"
Nov. 11	Cloudy	1 1/2"
Nov. 12	Sunny	1"
Nov. 13	Rainy	0 1/2"



Check sprinklers, faucets and hoses for leaks, broken or missing parts and other problems. Fixing them and making sure they're working properly can save lots of water.