

# Water Wisely

## Richland Water Operations



During the summer months, water consumption increases almost five-fold in Richland. Here are some tips to keep your lawn healthy, with less water needs.

### Lawn & Garden Watering Tips

#### Before the planting season

- Remove thatch (dead grass) in turf areas as soon as possible. Thatch restricts penetration of water, air and nutrients.
- Aerate compacted soil to increase water penetration. Aerating should be done only during the spring months or after fall rains resume.
- Consider water requirements when purchasing new plants. Choose native plants when landscaping your lawn. Generally, native plants require less care and water than other ornamental varieties.
- Condition your soil to increase its water holding capacity. Compost and other soil amendments can work wonders to reduce water runoff, waste and improve the quality of your plants.

#### Soon after planting

- Place a layer of organic mulch around plants and trees to avoid excessive evaporation. This includes bark, grass clippings or compost. Mulch helps to hold moisture into the soil.
- Install a soaker hose, trickle or drip irrigation system for a slow, steady supply of water to the plant's root zone.

This method can save up to 60% over other watering techniques.

#### During the growing season

- Walk around the yard during the watering cycle often and look for signs of waste like puddles, or overspray on sidewalks, drive-ways, streets, fences, garden décor, etc.
- Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water. Run-off is a huge waste.
- Water slowly, deeply and less often. Longer watering cycles for fewer days allow roots to lengthen and strengthen, allowing hardiness in drought conditions.
- Realign sprinkler heads and fix broken heads promptly. Keep spare parts on hand.
- Practice efficient irrigation like watering the plant in its root "zone," and not directly on the roots.
- Look for signs of a thirsty lawn. The lawn will begin to turn a dull gray/green color and lose resiliency. For example, when walked upon, it won't spring back.
- If possible, water the lawn in the evening, night or early morning when evaporation is less likely to occur. Avoid watering during the heat of the day.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Miscellaneous Water Issues – 942-7670

