

General Lawn Tips

Mowing

When mowing your lawn, don't remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade each mowing. Also, leaving the mulched grass clippings on the lawn and not bagging them can keep the lawn cooler and help hold in moisture. Mow at a height of 3 inches to 3.5 inches tall through the summer. This promotes healthier, deeper roots.

Aeration

By aerating your lawn each year, you can allow air, water and nutrients to move deeper into the soil. This process helps drive grass roots deeper into the soil. Deeper roots generate a healthier, greener lawn. Proper aeration combats compaction of your soil and keeps the soil permeable. This means water can more easily flow to the deep root zone of your grass.

Don't Over-Water

Over-watering can weaken lawns, making them more prone to damage from insects, weeds, fungus and disease. It is okay to "stress" by watering your lawn less; this will help the root zone grow deeper into the soil!

**FREE
WATER
CHECK**

Free Water Check

You can have your sprinkler efficiency checked by a pro, for free! They will also develop a customized watering schedule for your lawn. Sign up at www.slowtheflow.org/watercheck or by calling 1-877-728-3420

General Lawn Watering Tips:

- Stop thinking of "watering your lawn" and start thinking of "refilling the soil moisture reservoir" under your lawn.
- Remember, water less often, but water more deeply! This will provide healthy roots and save water.
- Water in cycles so water will have time to penetrate the soil and reach the root zone.
- Make sure your sprinklers are only watering landscaped areas, not sidewalks, driveways, porches or streets.
- Make sure you apply the right amount of water each time you water, then check the weekly lawn watering guide online at www.conservewater.utah.gov to find out how many times to water each week.

Utah Division of Water Resources

Mission: To Plan, Develop, Conserve and Protect Utah's Water Resources



For more information on water conservation visit us on the web at www.conservewater.utah.gov or www.slowtheflow.org



Maintain a Healthy Lawn and Stay Water Wise!



www.slowtheflow.org

www.conservewater.utah.gov

Should I Water My Lawn Today?

Before You Water Your Lawn, You Should...

Check Your Sprinkler System

An important step in using water wisely is proper maintenance of irrigation systems. If sprinklers are not kept in good working condition, they can waste water as well as have detrimental effects on your landscape. Turn on your sprinklers during daylight hours to inspect the system for broken, clogged or misaligned heads. **Sprinklers should have head-to-head coverage.** This means water from one sprinkler reaches all the way to the next sprinkler. This allows for maximum efficiency in water coverage.



Check the Weather Report

If precipitation is forecast for the coming week, you should postpone your lawn watering. The weather forecast for any given area of the state can be found at www.wrh.noaa.gov/slc/. Consider installing an automatic rain shutoff device on your sprinkler system. Place a rain gauge (anything that catches water that can be measured) in your backyard to monitor rainfall and irrigation.



Check the Lawn Watering Guide

The Utah Division of Water Resources publishes a weekly lawn watering guide for the entire state. This useful tool can be found online at www.conservewater.utah.gov. The goal is to help residents apply the same amount of water that was used by evaporation and plant processes in the previous week.



Check to See if Your Lawn Needs Water

Only water your lawn when it needs water. If you leave footprints in the grass when you walk on it, then it is time to water! Test your soil moisture with a soil probe or use a long (6 inches) screwdriver to see how moist the soil is. If the screwdriver goes into the soil easily, this means the soil is still moist. Don't water your lawn!

Check Your Application Rate

To determine the application rate, you will need at least four test containers. Place the containers in the grass. Turn your sprinklers on for 15 minutes. Make sure to turn on all stations that water the test area. Measure in inches the depth of water in each of the containers. Calculate the average and multiply this by four. This is your application rate in inches per hour. Then calculate how many minutes you need to water to put ½ inch of water on your lawn. You should only apply ½ inch of water each time you water.

Check the Time of Day

Avoid watering your landscape during the hottest hours of the day (10 am until 6 pm) to minimize evaporation. Watering during the cooler times of the day reduces evaporation, allowing more water to get to the roots of the grass.

Automatic Timers or Controllers

These devices are wonderful and allow the user freedom and convenience in lawn watering. **However, they need to be adjusted throughout the watering season (April to October).** Also, timers should be turned off during and after rainstorms! For even more efficient watering, check into "smart controller" technology at your local sprinkler supplier or our website www.conservewater.utah.gov.

Water in Cycles

By dividing your watering time into shorter cycles with a rest time in between, more water will be able to penetrate the soil and reach the root zone. Watering in cycles also minimizes runoff.



If the only time you use your lawn is to mow it, think about taking that lawn area out and putting in a lower maintenance, lower water using plant type!

See www.slowtheflow.org for more water wise landscaping tips.