

# BEST LAWN WATERING PRACTICES

Summer lawn watering creates large demands on the City's water utilities. Water supply treatment and storage facilities are built three times larger to supply additional demands created by lawn watering. This extra capacity is not used for most of the year and adds significant costs to the design, construction and operation of a water system. Efficient lawn watering practices can help maintain a beautiful yard and conserve valuable water supplies.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Adjust sprinklers to water only grass areas and not impervious surfaces such as streets, driveways and walkways.
- Mow grass to a height of 2 ½ to 3 inches. Taller grass shades the roots and soil surfaces, which helps reduce the amount of water that is lost to evaporation.
- Use sprinklers that spray low large drops vs. high fine ones.
- Use hand held soakers for small trees, shrubs and plants.
- Use automatic shut off nozzles on hoses and repair leaky hoses and fittings.

## WHEN TO WATER

- About one inch of water per week (including precipitation) is adequate for maintaining a healthy lawn. Use a can or rain gauge to help determine the amount of water applied by the sprinkling system and supplied by rainfall.
- Don't use a fixed schedule for lawn watering. Apply water only when it is needed. Over watering can promote diseases and affect the health of the lawn.
- A simple test for determining if grass needs water is to walk on the lawn and if you leave foot prints, it may be time to water the lawn.
- Using a spade or gardening tool to check soil conditions 2 to 6 inches below the surface can provide information on soil moisture and the need to water.
- A good soaking once or twice a week is better than watering every day. Allowing the soil to dry between watering will allow the roots to grow to greater depths and help make turf more drought tolerant.

## BEST TIMES FOR LAWN WATERING

- Water during the cool part of the day to minimize water lost to evaporation. Early morning hours (4 a.m. to 10 a.m.) are the best, and the peak water consumption hours (4 p.m. to 10 p.m.) should be avoided.
- Avoid watering during midday hours when it is hot and sunny to prevent scalding the turf.
- Watering at night is not recommended because the lawn stays wet for a long period of time which can promote diseases and affect the health of your lawn.