

WATER SMART LANDSCAPE PRACTICES

The greatest amount of water savings can often be realized through improved irrigation scheduling. You could potentially reduce your water use by up to 60% simply by adjusting your watering schedule throughout the summer to account for plants' changing water needs. To assist you in managing your water use this summer, follow these helpful tips.



- Adjust your watering schedule regularly; adapt for the weather and the season. Visit www.ashland.or.us/conserve for an example watering guide.
- Inspect your system twice a month. Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads and make adjustments to be sure you're watering plants and not sidewalks, fences or buildings.
- It is generally best to water deeply and infrequently. However, if you are watering on a slope or if pooling occurs after only a short time, then consider breaking up your one long cycle into two cycles separated by at least an hour.
- Water between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. to avoid losing water to wind and evaporation.
- Water only when needed. Overwatering results in shallow roots and encourages weeds, disease and fungus growth.
- Check soil moisture before watering. Use a moisture meter to detect if soil is still moist from previous watering.
- Adjust your water pressure; too much pressure on sprinklers uses more water than needed.
- Attach a shut off nozzle on your hose when hand watering plants.
- Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation to water flowers, vegetable gardens, shrubs and trees.
- Keep pools covered when not in use so you won't lose water to evaporation.
- Determine how much water you use when irrigating by taking a meter reading before and after running your system. This will tell you how many cubic feet of water you used. Remember that 1 cubic foot is equal to 7.48 gallons.

Ashland offers many great resources to assist you in managing your landscape. Check out the City's Water Wise Landscaping website for more ideas on how to create a landscape that is healthy, attractive and uses less water. Visit the site at www.ashland.saveswater.org. For more information, contact the water conservation team at 541-552-2062.

