

Love Your Water & Your Landscape Conservation Corner – August 2019

Water is a precious resource and is needed for all living things. In the summer, household water use can more than triple due to watering our landscapes. That's why it's important to "Love Your Water" and use it wisely as we move through the summer season. During this time of year, the greatest amount of water savings can often be realized through improved irrigation scheduling. The average home could potentially reduce water use by up to 60 percent simply by adjusting the watering schedule throughout the summer to account for plants changing water needs. To promote a water efficient landscape with a healthy root system, consider the following practices:



Adjust your watering schedule regularly – Plant water needs change every two weeks throughout the summer. In particular, at the end of August and into September we still have very high temperatures, however, plant water needs decrease because the days are also getting shorter. Remember to take this into account and reduce your watering times accordingly.

Online watering calculator – If you are curious about how much water your landscape needs this summer, consider trying out the City’s online watering calculator at the web address below. You can also give the water conservation team a call at (541) 552-2062 if you would like a more in depth analysis of your landscape’s watering needs.

Watering times - Watering your landscape less frequently, but for longer durations extends roots deeper into the soil profile. Plants will be healthier, need less water, and will withstand more stress if roots are encouraged to grow deep.

Check your soil moisture – If you are unsure whether your landscape needs water, you can check the soil moisture by using a moisture meter. Depending on the type of soil you have, you may find that there is still sufficient moisture left over from a previous watering or a rain event.

Dry spots – If you have a dry spot in your landscape, water it manually with a hose or watering can instead of running the entire irrigation system longer.

Test your system – Testing your irrigation system will help you assess if you may need to replace or repair any parts of your irrigation system. Getting this task done will help ensure that your system is up and running efficiently during the hot summer months.

Read your water meter – Take a meter reading before and after running your sprinkler system to determine how much water you use. City of Ashland water meters are read in cubic feet. One cubic foot is equal to 7.48 gallons.

Love your water and your landscape and reduce excess watering this summer. For more information and ideas on how to create a landscape that is healthy, attractive and uses less water, visit the City's Water Wise Landscaping website at www.ashlandsaveswater.org. For more information on additional water efficiency programs please call (541) 552-2062.