

WATERWISE GARDENING TIPS

Gardening can be a great way to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. Gardens in our area require supplemental irrigation during the summer months. Over 30% or more of water use in the summer months is from watering lawns and gardens. Designing and planting your garden with this in mind can help you to save money on your water bill, and help conserve our precious water resources.

Here are some of the things you can do to become a "waterwise" gardener!

- Improve your soil. Add water and nutrient holding materials such as compost to your shrub beds and dig them in as deep as possible.
- Plant native plants and drought tolerant plants that do not require as much water.
- Cover your planting beds with two to four inches of mulch such as compost or bark to reduce evaporation.
- Reduce the size of your lawn. Mow high, mow often, and leave the clippings. If you elect to let your lawn go brown, water it at least once a month to help it out. Aeration, dethatching and overseeding can improve poor lawns.
- Water lawns deeply, but infrequently. One inch a week during the summer is all that you need.
- Water early in the morning or late in the evening. Avoid watering during the heat of the day, as much of the water is wasted due to evaporation, and water droplets on your grass can damage the plant leaf structure.
- Arrange sprinklers so they cover lawn area, not pavement.
- Each spring, inspect all hoses for leaks and make sure all connections fit tightly prior to use.
- Daily watering is rarely necessary, as grass roots like to dry out between watering days. Two days a week should help you give your landscape what it needs.

