

Preparing for Summer – Water Conservation Checklist

Warmer temperatures are finally here, and time spent outside will soon increase. Use some of that time to prep your yard and landscape for warmer and drier conditions.

1. Inspect your irrigation system:

- Adjust the position of your sprinklers so they are aimed at your lawn and garden, not the pavement.
- Look for leaks, broken lines, or blockages in the lines and repair any issues you find.
- Consider using water-saving technology like weather-based irrigation controllers, soil moisture sensors, drip irrigation, and rotating sprinkler nozzles.
- Use shut-off nozzles on your hoses.

2. Prep your lawn and garden:

- Adjust your mower to a higher setting as a taller lawn provides shade to the roots and helps retain soil moisture.
- Aerate your soil so that water can better infiltrate into the ground.
- Minimize or eliminate fertilizer since application causes your landscape to require additional water.
- Design your garden based on watering zones of plants. This method allows you to group plants together with similar water needs.

3. Know when and how much to water:

- Water established lawns about 1 inch per week.
- Schedule your sprinklers to run at night or in the early morning when temperatures are cooler.

