





## Preserving Water

### While Caring for your Lawn

If we considered watering the average-sized lawn of 1/5 of an acre with the recommended amount of water of 1" per week, that lawn would require about 65,000 gallons of water for the 3 months of summer. Here are some ideas that might help cut down on your family's water use but still maintain a healthy lawn.

- **Water only what grows.** Make sure the heads are adjusted properly to avoid watering sidewalks and driveways. A properly adjusted sprinkler head should spray large droplets of water, not a fine mist, to minimize evaporation and wind drift.
- **Let your lawn go dormant** during the hottest months by not watering. Cool-season grasses stop growing at temperatures above 90° F. It will grow back in the cooler months of fall.

## Share Your Sustainability Story

Join the "Kid Patrol" in stopping fertilizer pollution! You can watch this video and other videos on sustainable practices at [www.lakecountyyil.gov/savewater](http://www.lakecountyyil.gov/savewater). Tell us how you are conserving water and we may feature your story on our website and TV! Email us at [communications@lakecountyyil.gov](mailto:communications@lakecountyyil.gov) or call 847.377-2550.

## Efficient Watering



### Timing



- **Monitor rainfall.** Don't water the lawn if rains are expected soon. Keep track of rainfall with your rain gauge. Don't apply more water than what is necessary.
- **Water early in the day** when lawns are normally wet from dew. Avoid midday watering due to evaporation, and at night due to potential increased chances of some diseases.

### Frequency



- **Water every 5-7 days (if no rain).** A soaking rain can extend the period to 10-14 days.
- **Water as infrequently as possible.** Water thoroughly so moisture gets down to the depth of the roots. Avoid frequent waterings that promote shallower root systems and weeds.



### Amount

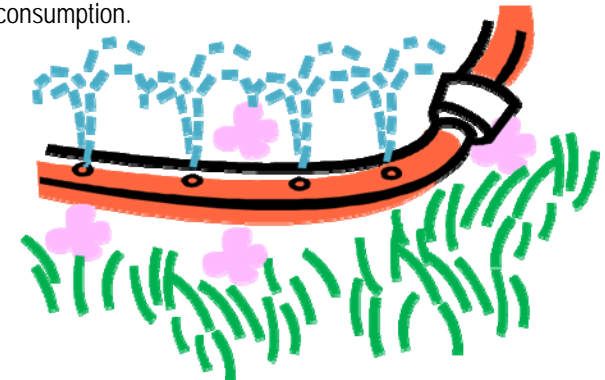
- **Depends on your lawn.** Cool-season grasses need about 1-1 1/2 inches of water per week.
- **Avoid overwatering.** Overwatering does more than deplete the water supply; it also makes plants prone to pests and adds to stormwater runoff, which can pollute our waterways.
- **Consider drip irrigation.** When it comes to watering individual trees, flowerbeds, potted containers or other non-grassy areas, you can apply water directly to the roots with low volume drip irrigation. This will reduce water waste through evaporation or runoff and keep weeds from growing.

## Efficient Mowing

- **Mow at the highest setting.** For most cool-season lawns, a height of between 3" to 3 1/2" is considered adequate. Keeping the grass slightly higher will increase shade on the soil, encourage deeper rooting and reduce evaporation.

## Efficient Fertilizing

- **Fertilize once a year** in October after the rainy season to allow fertilizer to be absorbed by the roots. Always use a slow release, phosphorous free fertilizer. Excess fertilizer applications increase water consumption.



## Planning for Our Future Water Supply

The Lake County Water Supply Advisory Committee, which includes elected leaders and other stakeholders, is working to establish sustainable policies and practices in order to ensure there is available, clean, safe, and cost-effective drinking water in the future. You can read reports, view meeting schedules and more at [www.lakecountyyil.gov](http://www.lakecountyyil.gov). For more information, call 847-377-2550.