



Summer Watering Guide

Ever surprised when your summer water bill arrives? Want to be more water-efficient with your landscape care but not sure how?

To help you weather the summer water-wisely, and with a beautiful landscape intact, we have compiled some of our top tips below.

1

WATER DEEPLY BUT INFREQUENTLY

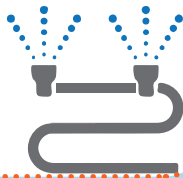
One or two deep waterings is better for plants than several shallow ones.



2

WATER AT THE ROOTS

Hand watering, drip irrigation or soaker hoses do this better than sprinklers.



Don't keep soaker hoses running, or your water bill will too! To be water-efficient, make sure to time your drip irrigation cycles.

5

WATCH THE WEATHER

Use a rain sensor or turn off automatic sprinkler system ahead of time if rain is in the forecast.

6

AVOID PLANTING IN SUMMER

New plants need more water initially—their best start is during fall or spring rains.



*** Bonus tip:** When choosing new plants, consider native varieties that need less water.

7

MULCH TO KEEP MOISTURE IN

A 2" layer of mulch on planting beds will help keep moisture in longer. Bonus: less weeding!



8

MOW HIGHER FOR A HEALTHIER LAWN

Setting mower above 2" helps keep in moisture and protect roots from heat and burnout.

3

WATER AT THE RIGHT TIME

Early am is best, or later in the evening, so less water is lost to evaporation.



4

WATER FOR YOUR SOIL & PLANT NEEDS

Consider plant types, soil type, and sun/shade exposure to know how much to water. Shady spots can hold moisture longer; native plants generally need less water.

Test soil a few inches down and water only when dry at plant root zone. If soil is very dry, short, repeated watering cycles can help absorption and avoid runoff better than longer waterings.

Find a basic watering guide for trees, annuals, shrubs, perennials, and lawns at savingwater.org.



*** Bonus tip:** Healthy soil makes healthy plants. Adding compost to soil can increase water retention and decrease amount of watering needed.

How much water do lawns need?

About 1" per week, spread over 2-3 waterings. You can use a tuna can to measure sprinkler output. If you choose to "go golden," you only need 1" per month to keep roots moistened.

1" water



9

MONITOR LEAKS

Little leaks become big bills! Walk through landscape regularly to make sure pipes are in good order. Check hose connections for drips.

10

MAKE EVERY DROP COUNT!

Make sure sprinklers are supplying water ONLY to plants, not sidewalks or driveways!

Find more expert tips for smart planting, wise watering, and natural yard care at savingwater.org.
Want to share a tip? Email conservation@nud.net—new tips published regularly on our Facebook page.