

# Top 10 for your yard water-saving tips

**1** DON'T WATER TOO MUCH!



**2** USE NATIVE PLANTS!



**3** ZONE IRRIGATION TO MATCH WATER NEEDS!



**4** MINIMIZE THIRSTY TURF AREAS!



**5** WATER DEEPLY, WATER LESS!



**6** DON'T CUT THE GRASS TOO SHORT!



**7** USE PLENTY OF COMPOST AND MULCH!



**8** USE RAIN SENSOR OR CONTROLLER!



**9** APPLY FERTILIZER SPARINGLY!



**10** CONSIDER INSTALLING DRIP IRRIGATION IN FLOWER BEDS!



## Facts about potential water savings -- Residential Lawn and Garden Irrigation

During the spring and summer months, approximately 80 percent of the water we use is for irrigation...and about 50 percent of that water is WASTED! The days of cheap and plentiful water supplies are behind us...and it is time that we all learn to use this precious natural resource more efficiently.

- ◆ Use only as much water on your lawn as you absolutely need to. Studies show that the average homeowner uses more than four times the actual amount of water needed to keep a lawn healthy and looking great.
- ◆ When watering, thoroughly wet soils to a depth of about 6 inches. One inch of water will accomplish a 6-inch moisture level in the soil, but this will vary according to soil mineral type. Shallow watering encourages shallow roots that dry out fast. Also wait as long as possible between watering cycles to allow the root zone to dry out...which encourages deeper roots and better drought tolerance.
- ◆ Water your lawn and garden in the very early morning or after sunset. If you water in the middle of the day, evaporation prevents about 14 percent of the water from ever reaching the plants' roots. Early or late watering can save the resident as much as 87 gallons a week...that's 4,524 gallons a year. For you trivia buffs, that's equal to nine times the annual rainfall in Seattle.

◆ Reduce the irrigation cycle by 1-3 minutes, or eliminate one irrigation cycle per week. Your potential savings can add up to 15-25 gallons per minute, or up to 250 gallons per cycle.

◆ Use technology based irrigation equipment that can adjust watering times and shut down the system when it rains. This equipment can save up to 40 gallons of water per day!