

You can Have a Healthy Lawn and Use Less Water

Over-watering can weaken lawns, making them more susceptible to damage from disease and fungus, insects and weeds. By watering less, your lawn will be healthier and you can save time and money, too.

Here are the signs of overwatering:

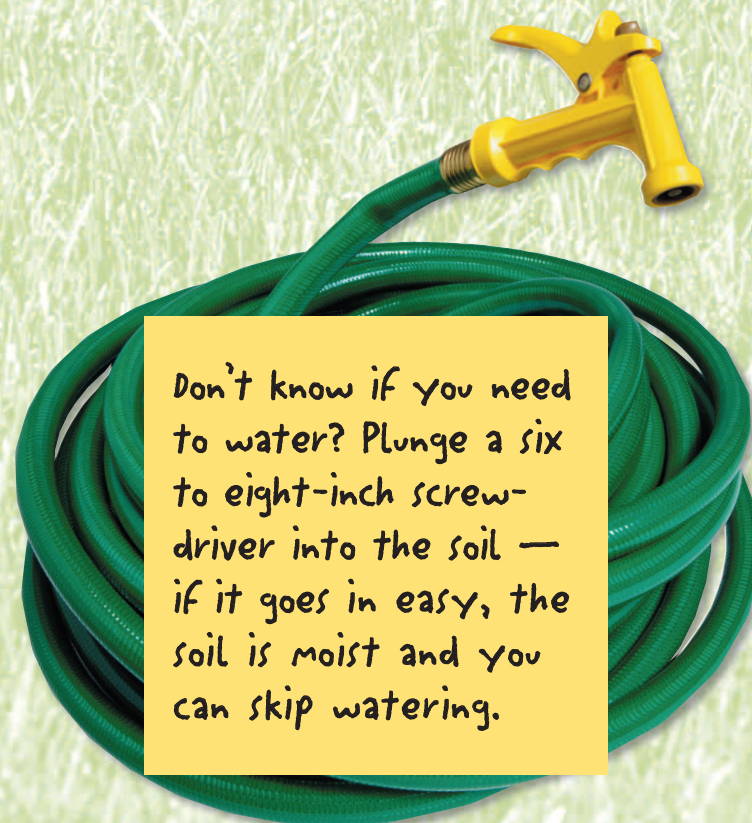
- Water running off the lawn
- Water puddles on the lawn
- Shallow lawn roots
- Increased insect, disease, and fungus problems, and mushrooms
- Shrubs and other plants have yellowing foliage

Grass by any other name:

To minimize maintenance problems, use grass species that are appropriate for your yard and its specific conditions. Is it sunny or shady, or somewhere in between? Is the soil heavy clay or loose sand? Will the turf see a lot of play or just an occasional lounge? By answering these questions, you can pick the right grass and save time, money, and water.

To pick a turf or to learn about grass alternatives, visit www.slcsaveh2o.com.

An important step in using water wisely is to maintain irrigation systems properly. Follow the simple steps inside this brochure for a more efficient irrigation system and a healthier lawn.



Don't know if you need to water? Plunge a six to eight-inch screw-driver into the soil — if it goes in easy, the soil is moist and you can skip watering.

Want to learn more?

Would you like to learn more about how to maintain a healthy, water-wise landscape? Visit our website at www.slcsaveh2o.com for more tips, brochures, and suggested readings.

Garden Wise is on the Web!

SLC TV17 **Garden Wise** is now available for viewing. **Garden Wise** is a TV program on how to have a beautiful, healthy and low water garden. Got questions? Email us at gardenwise@slcgov.com.

Free is Good

Call 1-877-728-3420 to schedule a free irrigation system check. Did we mention it was free?

Always use water wisely.



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SALT LAKE CITY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Lawn
Watering
For the
Water-Wise
Landscape

Lawn Tips

Don't Kill It with Kindness

During the heat of the summer, your lawn only needs to be watered about twice a week.

Water in Cycles

By dividing your watering time into three shorter cycles with time in between, water has more time to penetrate the soil and reach the root zone. This means run-off is minimized and more water gets to the roots.

Mow High

When grass is allowed to grow higher, roots have a chance to grow deeper. Deep roots help your lawn withstand changes in temperatures, even the extremes. Deep roots also need less water. Mowing high also means you get to mow less often.

Recycle Your Grass

Leave grass clippings on the lawn to provide nutrients and to keep the soil cool, or put them in your Tan Can.

Let the Air In

Roots need air, too. Aerating your lawn helps compacted soils loosen up, and increases the transfer of air into the soil so roots can breathe deep.

Is Your Lawn Water Wise?

1 Water deeply.

The goal is to wet the soil four to six inches deep. To check, push a screw driver into the soil—it will take little effort if it is moist.

2 Tune-up the irrigation system.

With the sprinkler system on, check for broken, crooked, or clogged nozzles, and repair or replace them. Don't forget to check the fittings below the heads.

3 Water the lawn, not the concrete.

While the irrigation system is running, notice if water is spraying walks, gutters, or driveways. Replace full circle heads with quarter or half heads where needed to minimize waste.

4 Water just enough.

The precipitation rate is a measure of how many inches of water per hour a sprinkler applies.

Collect some empty containers—soup cans work fine—and using a permanent marker, place a mark 1/2 inch from the bottom of the container (use at least four containers). Place the containers in an even pattern over the lawn, one irrigation zone at a time. Turn on the zone and time how long it takes for water to reach the mark. Now you know just how long it takes to put 1/2 inch of water on your lawn.

5 Water in cycles.

By dividing your watering time into three shorter cycles with time in between, water has more time to penetrate the soil and reach the root zone. This means run-off is minimized and more water gets to the roots. Divide the amount of time it took to apply 1/2 inch of water by three, and you have the length of time for each of three irrigation cycles. Allow about an hour between cycles.

6 Water evenly.

Are there areas that get more or less water than others? Check for repairs or adjustments or drag out a hose to water the brown spots (don't water the whole lawn).

7 Follow the watering schedule.

Now that you have repaired or adjusted the sprinkler nozzles, and know how long to cycle, here is a schedule for a healthy lawn.

| MONTH | INTERVAL 1/2" of water per interval |
|---|--|
| Startup until April 30 | Once every 7-14 days |
| May | Once every 4-7 days |
| June, July, August | Once every 3-4 days |
| September | Once every 7-10 days |
| October to shutdown | Once every 7-14 days |
| You may need to water less or more depending on the weather. | |
| If it rains or is windy, remember to turn off your automatic system. | |

Other Ways to Save

To Know Us is to Water Us Less

Most trees, shrubs, and flowers need less water than your lawn. By watering them separately from the lawn, you'll not only save water, everything will be healthier.

Give it a Rest

During the hottest part of the summer, grasses like Bluegrass may go dormant – this is normal. The grass will green up as soon as the temperature drops or the day-length shortens.

Can't Stop the Rain

Remember to turn off your sprinklers when it rains.

Your Roots are Showing

To keep soil moist and cool, and to reduce weeds, place three to four inches of compost, bark, or fine gravel under and between trees, shrubs, and perennials.

Water by Degrees

In cooler weather, water the same amount, but increase the number of days between watering.

Limp as a Dishrag

Check plants for heat stress in the morning. Usually, drooping leaves in the evening is a survival technique, but limp leaves in the morning may be a sign a plant needs water.

Go On a Less-Lawn Diet

If the only time you're on the lawn is when you mow it, think of replacing part of the lawn with low-water, low-maintenance ground covers, or even a patio or deck.