

## Watering Tips

1. *Water right — and that's at night.*  
Watering when it's cooler allows water to get to the root zone where it is needed.
2. *Water it deep*  
Deep soak your lawn to the root zone where it won't evaporate quickly and does the most good. By using a soil probe or a screwdriver, you will know when and how much to water.
3. *Don't overwater*  
Excess watering means that fertilizers and pesticides go into the groundwater past the root zone, negatively impacting water quality and increasing the burden to the wastewater treatment plant.
4. *Avoid watering on windy days.*  
If it is windy wait a day. If you have an early morning canyon breeze, water at another time of day.



DO YOUR PART,  
BE **Water Smart**

## Outdoor Water-Smart Tips

1. *Use a shut-off nozzle for your hose to avoid wasting water.*
2. *Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.*
3. *Don't leave water hoses running carelessly. Use a shut-off nozzle or timer.*
4. *Check and repair leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets and couplings. Outside leaks can be extremely wasteful, especially when they occur in your main water line.*



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Utah Water Conservation Forum

SIMPLE  
**Tips** FOR A  
SIMPLY  
**Beautiful yard**



We promote beautiful landscapes that are family-friendly, backyard habitats with butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. Over 60% of Utah's residential water use goes on landscapes in just a six month outdoor watering season, which is considered too excessive and unhealthy (DWR Dec 1998).

In fact, watering right often means watering less in Utah. By implementing these simple tips, you will be able to manage your outdoor watering practices more effectively. Remember - be water smart and do your part! Use Utah's water wisely.

## Sprinkler Tips



- 1. Water things that grow, like grass, plants and trees.**  
Adjust your sprinklers so you don't water your driveway, sidewalk, and fences. They won't grow — but it does increase your maintenance costs!
- 2. Invest in a rain switch or moisture sensor.**  
A rain switch will automatically shut off watering during rainstorms, while a moisture sensor "senses" when the soil has dried out and turns on automatically.
- 3. Avoid puddling**  
This is evidence of overwatering. Typically the excess water will evaporate before being absorbed into saturated soil.
- 4. Periodically adjust your automatic timer to coincide with weather changes.**  
Don't set it once and then leave it for the watering season. Change your watering schedule to adjust for monthly weather changes.

## Lawn Tips

- 1. Aerate your lawn, then overseed.**  
Aerate in the spring or fall then overseed it with a seed mix designed for Mountain West conditions. Talk to a knowledgeable nursery person or local USU County Extension agent for recommendations.
- 2. Let your grass grow.**  
Let your grass grow longer (2" to 2-1/2"). Longer turf means less watering and mowing.
- 3. Leave small grass clippings on the lawn as a nutrient source.**  
Consider investing in a mulching lawn mower.
- 4. Fertilize in late fall with a "slow release" fertilizer; only enough to keep plants healthy and green.**  
Over fertilizing is unhealthy for your lawn and also means it grows faster — increasing your work.



## Landscaping Tips

- 1. Diversify your landscape.**  
A landscape with trees, bushes, flowers and lawn can be more water and energy efficient, which can save you money!
- 2. Plant low water and drought-resistant trees and plants.**  
Ask your local nursery professionals about Utah-friendly landscape materials, such as low water plants, bushes and trees.
- 3. Use mulch around trees and plants.**  
A layer of mulch (3-4 inches) cools flower beds, slows the evaporation of moisture and also inhibits weeds.
- 4. Hydrozone**  
Plant similar type plants in the same water need zones. Consider the water needs of plants as you develop your landscape.