Lawn Watering Tips

The City of Oklahoma City has partnered with the Oklahoma State University Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service to help promote outdoor water conservation.

For more information about how you can save water outdoors check out these websites:

squeezeeverydrop.com
thinkwater.okstate.edu
sip.mesonet.org
Grow Your Best Lawn

- Select warm-season grasses that require less water like bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, and buffalograss.
- Do not mow your lawn too short. Grass acts as a natural mulch, retaining soil moisture and shading out weeds. As a rule of thumb, mow bermudagrass and zoysiagrass at 2-3 inches and buffalograss and tall fescue at 3-4 inches.
- Leave grass clippings on lawn.
- Know your soil type. Sandy soils need lighter, more frequent watering but clayey soils need heavier, less frequent watering. Applying water faster than it can soak into the soil will cause water (and your money) to run off the lawn!
- Aerate your lawn regularly. This improves water movement through the soil and aids in root development.
- Use mulch, such as compost or wood chips, to reduce evaporative water loss from the soil surface. Using mulch also reduces the growth of weeds and prevents soil compaction.
- Control weeds to reduce competition for water and nutrients.
- To conserve water, do not over-seed warm-season lawns with cool-season grasses. Over-seeded lawns require more irrigation than dormant grass.

Always Remember

- Collect and use rainwater when possible.
- Do not water hardscapes.
- Check your sprinkler heads. You may need to adjust, repair, or replace them.
- Overwatering is not only wasteful but harmful to turf, increasing the risk of disease and thatch buildup.