



Tips from our Water Action Team

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Concerned About our Water Supply? You Can Make a Difference

After one of the driest winters on record in our region, spring has been a bit wetter than usual, but the warm weather is now here. This means it's time to plan to step up our water conservation efforts with irrigation system maintenance and other efficiency measures.

In this newsletter, learn more about how to prepare your landscape for the dry months ahead and the City of Ashland resources and incentive programs that are available to help you use every drop of water wisely.

Watch Our Water Forum

The Ashland Climate Collaborative recently co-hosted a Water Forum on zoom with the Jefferson Center and Southern Oregon Climate Action Now.

[Click here to view the recording](#) for lots of info on Ashland's water supply and conservation tips.

Don't Let Your Landscape Become A Water Hungry Monster!

Watering practices affect how thirsty your plants are, as strange as it may sound. You can actually train your landscape to need less water by making simple modifications to your maintenance practices now.

Excess watering can cause plants to develop shallow roots that are easily stressed by dry conditions and more prone to disease.

Watering your landscape less frequently but for longer durations causes roots to grow deeper into the soil. Plants will be healthier, need less water, and will withstand more stress if roots are encouraged to grow deeply.

How Much Water Do I Need?

The City of Ashland watering guide at www.AshlandSavesWater.org can give you a rough idea of how water needs change seasonally. Water needs change based on several factors including your irrigation/sprinkler system, soil type, and weather. The watering guide, water conservation resources, water supply information and weather forecasts for irrigation planning are available at www.AshlandSavesWater.org

Evapotranspiration is Key!

Evapotranspiration, or ET, refers to water lost from soil surfaces and plant leaves. ET is important to understand when determining how much to water your plants -- so important that in agricultural communities weather stations often report ET daily, sometimes even hourly!

If you know how much water your plants and soil are losing through ET, you know how much you need to water. The City of Ashland website provides watering recommendations based on the week's weather conditions and the known ET from the prior week at Ashland.or.us/weather.

Schedule an Irrigation Evaluation

An irrigation evaluation is the best way to learn how your sprinkler system works and how much water your landscape needs. Did you know that the City of Ashland offers a free irrigation evaluation? The service includes:

- Checking the settings on your controller
- Running each sprinkler zone to assess water application efficiency
- A report with suggestions to improve watering times and system efficiency

Call (541) 552-2062 to schedule your free irrigation evaluation!



Important City of Ashland Resources

Tapping into the resources provided by the City of Ashland will help you stay abreast of our water resource situation and learn how to do your part to conserve our precious resources.

Visit Ashland.or.us/weather and Ashlandsaveswater.org

Tips for Healthy Root Systems in Drought-Tolerant Landscapes

- **Pay attention to the weather.** Don't water if rain is forecasted. Avoid watering every day, especially in spring and early summer.
- **In April, May, and sometimes June, rain can provide water for landscapes.** Watering in addition to the rain can cause more water dependency and less drought tolerance. Check your soil moisture -- you may find a moisture meter to be helpful. Soil type may influence moisture retention. Use only what you need! Water a lawn only when it shows signs of need such as folded leaf blades, a blue-gray color, and footprints that remain in the grass.
- **Raise your mower setting to 3 - 4"** to encourage deep root growth.
- **Reduce nitrogen fertilizer** to reduce shallow rooting and increase potassium to enhance drought tolerance.
- **Add mulch!** Adding mulch to garden beds reduces evaporation.
- **Plant climate-appropriate plants.** Consider native and drought-adapted plants.
- **Check the Water-Wise Landscaping website** for plant selection ideas at Ashlandsaveswater.org.

This newsletter is brought to you as a service of the Water Team of the Ashland Climate Collaborative. The Collaborative is a hub for community collaboration to reduce our climate footprint and build a more equitable and resilient Ashland.

Learn more about the Collaborative and sign up to receive our emails at AshlandClimate.org.

You can reach us at info@ashlandcollaborative.org