

Every day we need to be mindful of how we're using water at home. Water is a limited resource and following some simple tips can help increase our conservation efforts.

Here are some tips to conserve water use outdoors:

- Plant new lawn in the spring or fall to cut down on the amount of watering required.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn to help it thrive. Grass clippings provide essential nutrients (e.g. up to 25% of your lawn's nitrogen needs), add valuable organic material, and reduce moisture evaporation, thereby limiting how much watering you need to do.
- Lawns only need one inch (roughly one-hour) of water per week to stay healthy. Use drip irrigation in your garden to maximize watering efficiency.
- Use a hose timer so you don't have to remember to shut off your sprinkler.
- Save water by using a broom to clean your driveway instead of a hose.
- Check your sprinkler system frequently to ensure water is not wasted on areas that don't need it, such as sidewalks, driveways, etc.
- Use a rain barrel to collect rainwater for watering your garden and washing outside surfaces.
- Consider choosing drought-tolerant native plants that can survive the summer heat on natural rainfall amounts. If planted in their preferred location and once established, these plants should require little to no additional watering.



DID YOU KNOW?

One hour of hose use is equivalent to 25 toilet flushes, five loads of laundry, and five dishwasher cycles, combined!

Informational Resources – Outdoor Conservation

Metro Vancouver “We Love Water” – as the lead in water conservation efforts in the Lower Mainland, Metro Vancouver is the primary source for information local municipalities. welovewater.ca

Growgreen – A guide to eco-friendly lawns and gardens in Metro Vancouver. www.growgreenguide.ca

Gardening with native plants – This guide will direct you in creating a gorgeous and thriving native plant garden. It provides steps to get started, native plant recommendations, design and maintenance tips, and ways to add beneficial natural features. fraservalleyconservancy.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/FVC-Native-Plants-guide-Aug-2018-web.pdf

Natural lawn care – This website provide some tips on how to care for your lawn in a natural way. learn.eartheasy.com/guides/natural-lawn-care

Native Plant Society of British Columbia – This website provides information on native plants and the key role they play in our environment. They provide resources to teach you how to start you own native garden! npsbc.wordpress.com

Great plant picks – Great Plant Picks (GPP) is the primary educational program of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden which debuted in 2001 with the first recommendations for a comprehensive palette of outstanding plants for the maritime Pacific Northwest. To date over 1,000 exceptional plants have been selected for gardeners living west of the Cascade Mountains from Eugene, Oregon, USA to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. www.greatplantpicks.org

Plant wise – This website provides information on how to choose only non-invasive plants for your garden or horticulture business. bcinvasives.ca/play-your-part/plantwise

BC landscape water calculator – The BC Landscape Water Calculator helps British Columbians estimate the water requirements for their landscaped areas. bcwatercalculator.ca/landscape/welcome