

Drops, Drips Lawn-and-Garden Tips



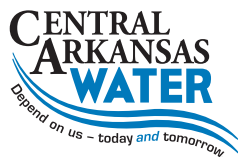
The drops of rain we wait for so patiently during the summer can bring a breath of fresh air to our lawns and landscapes. However, with all of the technology and knowledge available today, we can partner with Mother Nature when it comes to quenching the thirst of our lawns and gardens and watering wisely.

AVOID THE PEAK! Water Early!

During the summer months, it's possible to stress our water delivery system to the limit simply because so many of our lawn sprinklers come on at the same time – usually between 5:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. on weekday mornings.

If your lawn or landscaping gets morning sun, you can help the water system to control when peak demand occurs by setting your sprinkler system for 3:30 a.m. – 5:30 a.m. With early morning watering, you lose less water to evaporation, plus plants dry quickly. If your lawn gets morning shade or you are watering disease-prone plants, such as roses, set your sprinkler to operate from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Let's enjoy beautiful lawns and landscapes all summer long, water wisely, and **Avoid the Peak!**



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Golden Rule of Watering

Water is an essential ingredient to a healthy lawn or garden. It's important to water deeply but infrequently for your grass and plants to have a strong root system. A deep root system is less sensitive to drought and the hot temperatures of summer.

Organic Matter Really Matters

Organic matter, such as compost, cow manure, rotted sawdust or hay, or peat moss helps your lawn to retain the drops that do fall during summer rain showers. Once organic matter is in the soil, it acts like a sponge and holds water in the root zone, where the plants can use it.

Much to Say about Mulch

Mulching can reduce water demand by a whopping 40%! Mulches keep the soil cooler, eliminate weed competition, and reduce evaporation from the soil surface. Good mulches for the flower bed include pine bark, shredded hardwood bark, pine needles, and cottonseed hulls. A good 2 inches are needed for the best results.

It's OK to Be a Drip

Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses to water shrubs or flower gardens. Both systems apply water slowly and directly to the soil. Another great plus for drip irrigation is the foliage stays dry, which reduces the chances of leaf disease. So, water or drip to your garden's delight.

Avoid Double Watering

Be sure to turn off sprinklers when we do get a refreshing summer shower.

Easy Reference Guide:

For information on re-setting your in-ground sprinkler system, call your sprinkler installer or maintenance company.

For more information on maintaining a healthy lawn and garden, visit www.uaex.edu or call the Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service at 501-340-6650.



For information about your water service, visit www.carkw.com or call Central Arkansas Water at 501-377-1200.

Lawn-and-Garden Tips are courtesy of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.