

## **Good for your lawn and good for your wallet**

Can you have a healthy green lawn and a smaller water bill this summer? Absolutely – just use a few of these water wise tips this summer and you'll enjoy the best of both worlds.

### **Leave your lawn 3 inches (7.5 cm) long as a strong defense against sun and dandelions**

Are you worried about how the sun can hurt your lawn on those really hot summer days? Longer grass shades its own roots – providing protection from the scorching sun on hot days. As a bonus, the longer grass will choke out pesky dandelions. Just adjust your lawn mower to leave the grass longer and mow a few less times this summer. Total cost? Free.

### **Let mother-nature do the watering**

Each week this summer, let natural rainfall water your lawn first. Then use your sprinkler only if you need to. How will you know how much you need to water? As a rule of thumb, your lawn only needs 1 inch (25mm) of water each week. You can track how much rain falls by using a rain gauge or upside-down Frisbee. Use your sprinkler only to top up your lawn when mother-nature comes up short. Not only will you save money on your water bill, your lawn will thank you for not over watering it! (Tip: Look for the City of Calgary Water Services display at an event this spring and summer to pick up a rain gauge for free!)

### **Water in the morning**

Want to shave even more off your water bill? When you do have to use your sprinkler, try watering in the morning when it's cool and the wind is down. It will reduce the amount that you lose from evaporation when you water during hot afternoons and evenings. Not a morning person? No problem. Sprinkler timers are relatively inexpensive and are available at most hardware stores.

### **Capture the rain**

Savvy gardeners and water-users capture rainwater using rain barrels. Not only is rainwater is warm, soft, non-chlorinated water that your lawn and garden will thank you for - it's free! Even more, reducing runoff from your lawn and garden helps protect Calgary's stormwater system from flooding and rivers from pollution.

Some find it hard to believe, but outdoor watering during the summer often adds up to 30% of your annual water bill! Not only that, but summer water demand places a huge strain on the creeks and rivers in our community.

So what's the City of Calgary doing? In addition to helping Calgarians learn to be water-wise, the City has been reducing its water usage by reducing leaks in the water distribution system, upgrading our water treatment facilities and park irrigation systems to be more water efficient.

Want to do more? There's a whole range of opportunities to save money and conserve water. Find information about everything from wise-wise gardening to fixing leaky toilets. Just visit the City of Calgary Water Services website – [www.calgary.ca/waterservices](http://www.calgary.ca/waterservices) for more information or look for a Water Services display at an event near you this summer.