

The specific purposes of the Water Resources Association of San Benito County are to:

Promote & coordinate water resources managements actions identified in the Groundwater and Urban Water Management Plans for the Hollister Urban Area;

Provide a forum for frequent communication among agencies regarding water management activities;

Implement public and special purpose educational and informational programs;

Assist residents in using water, a finite resource, efficiently.

For more information go to:

www.wrasbc.org



The Water Resources Association of San Benito County is a locally-based agency focused on water resource management in San Benito County, representing the City of Hollister, the City of San Juan Bautista, Sunnyslope County Water District, and San Benito County Water District.



Sunnyslope

County Water District



**Water Resources
Association
Of
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**Watering
Your Lawn**

Drought Advice



Every Drop Matters

**Water Resources Association
Of
San Benito County**

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Lawns are Water Guzzlers



Lawns are generally the single biggest water user for a typical property. That means they offer the greatest potential for water savings. A 500-square-foot lawn can use more than 18,000 gallons of water per year!

If the only time you walk on your lawn is when you are mowing it, consider eliminating it & re-landscaping with permeable paving materials and plants appropriate for our local climate.

The Water Resources Association of San Benito County (WRASBC) has a list of drought tolerant and native plants that grow well in our climate.

Other services to assist you in achieving a water efficient landscape:

- **FREE** Water Efficient Landscape Plans
- **FREE** Landscape Irrigation inspection and evaluation
- **FREE** watering schedule for your yard
- **Rebates** on high-efficiency irrigation equipment (rain sensors, rotator nozzles, timers) * Funding is limited
- **FREE** landscape classes

Maintaining a Lawn During Drought

If you have a good reasons to keep your lawn, here are some simple maintenance practices that will help it survive during drought.

- Mow lawns 2 1/2-to-3 inches high. Taller grass blades will promote deeper roots and taller grass will shade the soil resulting in less water evaporating from the soil.
- When you mow don't remove more than the top one-third of the grass blade.
- Keep lawn mower blades sharp. Dull mowers shred grass tips, causing the lawn to look brown.
- Don't fertilize. Actively growing plants use more water and fertilizers can damage already stressed root systems.
- Trim the grass adjacent to sprinkler heads to ensure the sprinkler spray is not blocked.
- Never mow your lawn when the soil is wet. This will result in soil compaction.
- Keep foot and equipment traffic on the lawn to a minimum. Drought-stressed turf is more easily damaged by traffic.
- Leave clippings on the lawn as you mow. This will feed small amounts of nitrogen back to the soil.
- Be willing to accept a less than lush lawn during the drought.
- Even during a dry winter, there is little need to irrigate between November and March. The days are shorter and colder. This inhibits plant growth and turf becomes dormant.

Watering a Lawn During Drought Managing the water you apply to your lawn is essential!

Here's a few tips:

- Reduce the watering schedule. During normal years, lawns only require water two to three days per week in the spring and fall and three to four days per week in the middle of summer. However, during drought, lawns can survive on considerably less water. Reduce the number of watering days per week; reduce the minutes of watering per day; or reduce both. The lawn won't look it's best, but it will survive.
- Check your sprinkler heads every few weeks to make sure they are operating properly. Repair broken, bent or sunken heads and clogged nozzles. Adjust the sprinklers so they don't water any pavement.
- Water early in the morning between 3am and 8am. The temperatures are cooler, wind is generally calm and there is little evaporation.
- Watch your lawn rather than the calendar. If your lawn takes on a blue-grey tone or the grass blades don't spring back after you walk on it, it is time to water.
- To eliminate runoff and water waste use the cycle and soak method of watering. For spray head sprinklers water in three cycles, 3-6 minutes per cycle. For rotor heads water in three cycles, 10-12 minutes each cycle. Space each watering cycle about an hour apart to allow the water to soak in.
- Make scheduling changes every week based on the lawns condition.
- Hand-water small dry spots rather than turning up the watering schedule.

Lawn areas in shade (north/east side of house) will generally require 50% less water than lawns on the sunny side of the house. Adjust accordingly.