

Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District

P.O. Box 625
254 N. Jefferson St., Room 600
La Grange, Texas 78945
Telephone: (979) 968-3135
Fax: (979) 968-3194

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District
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Contact: Telephone: (979) 968-3135, Fax: (979) 968-3194

Plan for a Water Conserving Landscape

Spring is upon us once again and many are out in their yard beginning the annual preparation for their gardens and lawns. This article is to provide some suggestions to provide for a water conserving landscape this year.

Every year, approximately 50 percent of water usage is due to outdoor water usage. Reduce your usage by considering:

1. Water in the early morning or early evening, this will reduce the amount of evaporation that occurs, especially in the summer months.
2. A deep watering, approximately 1 ½ inches of water, once per week is all that is needed for most lawns to thrive. Deep water promotes deeper root growth of the grasses and develops a fuller lawn.
3. Use sprinklers that produce large water droplets, this will also reduce the amount of evaporation loss. Additionally, large droplets of water carried away from the lawn or garden by the wind.
4. Use drip irrigation in your garden, this promotes a more uniform watering of the plants and is more water efficient than using sprinklers.
5. Don't water or irrigate to the point that water runs off into the gutter.
6. Avoid allowing your sprinkler to apply water to driveways or sidewalks as concrete doesn't grow. A humorous reminder, but an important one, as the water running down the concrete could be more beneficially used in the yard or house.
7. When planning and selecting plants for your garden, look for plants rated to the zone we live in and which are drought tolerant. You don't have to plant cactus, there are many native plants and shrubs that thrive in our zone of Texas which add color and variety to a garden. Check with your garden supply center, research xeriscaping on the internet or library, or contact your County Extension office.
8. If you wash your car at your home, pull the car into the yard. You could get your vehicle clean and water your grass at the same time. Also, make use of a hand nozzle on your garden hose instead of allowing the hose to run.
9. Check your outside faucets and sprinkler systems for any leaks. Even a slowly dripping faucet can use hundreds of gallons per month.
10. Finally, consider catching rainwater and using it for your watering needs. Rainwater harvesting systems are available for purchase or you can make one yourself.

Take a moment to consider your outdoor water usage when planning your lawn and garden projects this year. Not only can you save money on your water bills but you will help in preserving our most precious natural resource, water.

These friendly conservation suggestions are presented to you by the Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District

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SOURCE: FAYETTE COUNTY GCD