



CWLP News Release

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July 5, 2011

JULY DECLARED SMART IRRIGATION MONTH

City Water, Light and Power has proclaimed July to be Smart Irrigation Month to raise awareness of the benefits of efficient watering practices. CWLP has joined forces with the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program and the Irrigation Association to promote simple practices and innovative technologies to reduce water waste during July, which is traditionally the month of peak demand for water for lawns, gardens and landscapes.

"If our residents and business owners can become more efficient in their outdoor water use, they'll be helping the City take small steps in preserving the long-term viability of our water supply," said Mayor Mike Houston. "The steps citizens can take to be more environmentally-responsible with their water usage, will result in lower CWLP bills and helps protect a valuable natural resource."

The Irrigation Association finds that many homeowners over-water their lawns and landscapes by as much as 30 percent. Through smart plant selection and placement and also by incorporating a well-planned watering plan, this waste can be reduced and consumers can save money and see better results. Beyond efficiency benefits, smart watering plans can reduce runoff, which can carry fertilizers and other chemicals to flow into sewer systems and natural waterways.

CWLP recommends the following tips for more efficient outdoor water use:

- Check irrigation systems for leaks and broken parts. Replace spray sprinklers with high-efficiency nozzles that produce droplets, not a mist that can evaporate or blow away.
- When watering is needed, water early in the morning, between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. to reduce evaporation.
- Be aware that established lawns and landscapes need only about one inch of water each week.
- Install a rain sensor and remember to adjust automatic sprinkler systems following rain events.
- Switch to drip irrigation, which applies water directly to the roots of shrubs and trees.
- Use a rain barrel or underground rainwater harvesting system for your landscape watering needs.
- Reduce your lawn area and replace grass with native plants, groundcover or hardscape requiring less water.
- Set your mower blade to a higher setting to help shade roots and hold soil moisture longer.
- Add mulch to help plants retain moisture.
- Adjust sprinklers so they aren't watering the sidewalk or street.

This month CWLP will be posting more outdoor watering tips on its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/4CWLP. For more information, contact CWLP's Energy Services Office at 789-2070 or visit www.cwlp.com.

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