

Tiny leaks, big bills.



A leak about the size of the tip of a ballpoint pen, or 1/32 inch, can waste about 6300 gallons of water per month and have a noticeable impact on your water bill. It's important to check your irrigation system each spring and summer, and look for:

- Leaks and pooling causing wet, muddy areas and lush, green spots.
- Coverage issues resulting in dry, brown spots or standing water on hard surfaces like walkways and driveways.
- Any spikes in your water bill due to wasted water.

TIPS FOR DITCH WATER USERS

Wait a week for the irrigation water to clear up in the spring before running your system.

Run two cycles and clean the main filter (should be 80 mesh) to get the initial gunk off. Some sprinklers also have screens/filters in the head. Check and clean them at the same time as the main filter.

Limit water loss from evaporation by watering in the evening or early morning hours when possible.

When in doubt about when and how to water your lawn, contact Cascadia Conservation District at 509-436-1601 or info@cascadiacd.org. We'll be happy to provide guidance and resources tailored to your specific situation.

Feeling kind of over your lawn?

You're not alone. Lawns are a lot of work, and for many homeowners, a big source of frustration. Even with considerable investments of time, energy and money, they often don't look that great, and frequently go unused. People are increasingly looking for attractive, low-maintenance alternatives to complement decks and patios.

Consider Xeriscaping. You can save time, money and water by landscaping with beautiful, functional plants adapted to our climate and weather conditions. There are lots of local resources to help you get started!

Xeriscape Demo Garden, Riverfront Park, Wenatchee

Community Ed. Garden, 1100 N. Western Ave, Wenatchee

extension.wsu.edu/chelan-douglas (Search "Xeriscape")

chelanpud.org (Search "Xeriscape")

cascadiacd.org (Native plant sales, workshops and more!)



Chelan/Douglas County

Master Gardener Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

YOUR LAWN, WATERED RIGHT.

LOCAL TIPS FOR NCW



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WATER DEEPLY, NOT FREQUENTLY.

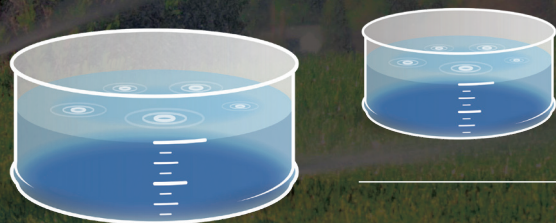
WHY? Because strong roots grow green lawns.

1 CHECK YOUR DEPTH

Start by understanding your system's water output. **Gather four identical, shallow, straight-sided cans (such as tuna cans) and place within the spray pattern of your sprinklers.**

Turn on the water for 15 minutes. Turn it off, and measure how much water is in each can. Differences in accumulated water can help you understand which areas of lawn need more or less water – make any necessary directional adjustments to get better distribution.

Then, pour all the water into one can and measure the total depth. This will tell you how much water your system applies per hour. Next, take out a calendar and get ready to plan your seasonal watering schedule.



Deeper, less frequent watering is best for your lawn, and our watershed. Shallow, frequent lawn watering makes root systems weak, resulting in grass that browns more quickly, and is more susceptible to mildew and weeds. Besides deep watering, high mowing also reduces turfgrass water needs. Recommended height is 2 ½ to 3 inches. Close mowing results in less root growth, so grass cannot access moisture.

2 MIND THE MONTH

Typical lawns in the Greater Wenatchee Valley do best with a phased watering cycle that peaks in July. **Use the time increment it took to apply an inch of water to determine watering times by month.**

MAXIMUM INCHES OF WATER TO APPLY EACH WEEK *

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT
1.1"	1.3"	1.6"	1.3"	.09"

Don't water the full weekly amount in one day. **Split the amount into 2-3 equal waterings per week. Lawns with steep slopes or sandy soils that cause runoff may need watering split into a higher number of smaller applications, or to have sprinklers apply water at a slower rate.**

To test for proper water penetration, wait 24 hours after deep irrigation and then use a shovel to open the soil and check for moisture depth. Soil should be moist to about 12 inches or the bottom of the root zone.

* Your lawn's needs may vary based on many factors. Don't be afraid to ask an expert!

3 ASK AN EXPERT

WSU Chelan-Douglas Co. Master Gardeners are friendly, helpful and readily available **to assess lawn samples and help determine water and fertilization needs for your particular grass — at no cost to you!**

WSU MASTER GARDENER DIAGNOSTIC CLINICS

Chelan County Extension Office

Location: 412 Washington Street in Wenatchee

Times: **Wed., 1-4 pm on Wednesdays starting April 3 through Oct. 9.**

Information: 509-667-6540 / chelanmastergardeners@gmail.com

The Farmers Market can be another easy way to talk to a WSU Extension Master Gardener. Check the time and location for the Wenatchee Valley Farmers Markets at: wenatcheefarmersmarket.com

