

## WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

The Ogallala Aquifer is the main source of water here. Both urban and rural residents depend on this underground resource. Water wells produce the supply which is distributed to local residents via pipelines. Currently, the communities of **Wellman** and **Meadow** depend solely on underground water from local wells. In **Brownfield**, local wells supplement a supply which is delivered by the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority (CRMWA). Historically, CRMWA delivered water solely from Lake Meredith in the Texas Panhandle. However, due to declining lake levels, an additional supply of groundwater is now mixed with the lake water. This groundwater is pumped from a well field purchased by CRMWA. In fact, approximately 50% of the CRMWA supply is comprised of groundwater from Roberts County, in the Texas Panhandle. Groundwater recharge in this area is almost negligible, which means the supply may diminish. As a result it is imperative that local residents use it wisely. Please help conserve this valuable resource.

## USING THE LAWN SPRINKLER GAUGE



Place the gauge in a random spot and run your sprinkler for 15 minutes. Record the amount of water collected and repeat. Calculate the average. Multiply by 4 and you know how many inches per hour your sprinkler applies to your lawn.

## CONSERVATION AROUND THE HOUSE

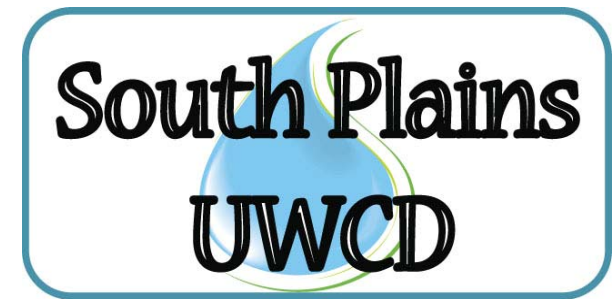
- Run water in the sink only when necessary.
- Use gray-water from dish washing to water flower beds and plants.
- Use melted ice in drinking glasses to water indoor plants.
- Run the dishwasher only when it is full.
- Set the washing machine water level to match the size of the load.
- When brushing teeth, turn the water off until it is time to rinse.
- Take a shower instead of a bath. Install a low-flow shower head.
- Repair leaky faucets.

## LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION ON THE WEB

- txsmartscape.com
- plantanswers.com
- hbarhturf.com
- aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu
- texassuperstar.com
- epa.gov/greenacres

**WATER CONSERVATION**—Making the most efficient use of our precious water resources.

# *Municipal Water Conservation*



## **South Plains Underground Water Conservation District**

**PO Box 986  
Brownfield, TX 79316  
806-637-7467  
[www.spuwcd.org](http://www.spuwcd.org)**

## WHY CONSERVE WATER?

Growing populations and rising costs for water and wastewater facilities are straining the ability of some communities and utilities to meet demand, especially during the summer.

During the winter, 90 percent or more of household water use occurs inside the home. However, in the summer, lawn watering and other outdoor uses can account for 50-80 percent of home water use. Yet, studies have shown that as much as half of this outdoor use is wasted through poor watering practices.

Typically, wells producing water from the Ogallala Aquifer supply the water needs of communities in the District. Recharge amounts are often lower than the withdrawals, resulting in water table declines. As water levels decline, communities must consider the means of ensuring dependable supplies. Conservation is a key component of groundwater management.

### EFFICIENT WATERING

- Water plants only when needed and water deeply to encourage deep root growth and healthier and more drought-tolerant plants.
- Do not water in the heat of the day or on very windy days.
- If you install an irrigation system, make sure that it is designed properly and manage it to reduce water waste.
- Shut off automatic sprinkler timers during freezing weather, or when it is raining.

## USE OF MULCHES

- Mulches will assist soils in retaining moisture, reducing weed growth, and preventing erosion when applied and maintained at appropriate depths in planting beds.
- Mulches can be used in places where conditions are not adequate or conducive for growing quality turf or ground cover.
- Mulches are typically wood bark chips, wood grindings, pine needles, nut shells, small gravel, and shredded landscape clippings.

### WHEN TO WATER GRASS

Most grasses take on a dull, dark appearance and leaves begin to roll when they need water. This usually occurs in 5 to 10 days, depending on the weather. The best time to water is early morning. Wait until you see the first signs of stress in your lawn before you water. If footprints remain in the turf, the blades are too limp to spring back. Also, a grayish cast to the lawn indicates that it is dry and needs water.

### HOW MUCH TO WATER

Apply enough to wet the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. **One to 1.5 inches of water is usually adequate.** Following an irrigation, use a soil probe or screwdriver to determine the depth the water actually reaches.

## TREES, SHRUBS, GROUND COVER

Established plantings do well in the summer when watered about once a week, especially if mulch and soil are placed around plants. Apply enough water to wet the soil to a depth of at least 12 inches. Flooding diked areas and using low output sprinkler heads, bubblers, or drip irrigation systems help prevent runoff.

New plantings require more frequent watering the first two years. Consider Texas-grown, drought-tolerant varieties when purchasing new or replacement plants.

### GENERAL WATER REQUIREMENTS

- **Buffalo grass\***—normally remains green on as little as 1.5 inches per month, even during the summer. Due to deep root system, 2 or 3 soakings a summer may be sufficient.
- **Bermuda grass\*\***—requires about one watering a month during the winter. May require several waterings per month during the summer.
- **Fescue\*\*\***—this type of grass may require as much as 3 inches per week during the summer, and 1 inch per week during the winter.

*\*Best choice for this area*

*\*\*Good choice for this area*

*\*\*\*Not recommended for this area*

*Remember--rainfall counts toward your water requirements*

***Use Water Wisely!***