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## WATER USAGE & CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

Average water consumption per dwelling is approximately 400 gallons per day, yet a garden hose can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours. Continuous sprinkling can therefore consume over 15 times the average daily consumption and cannot be sustained by the water supply system.

The following information is provided to assist you in ensuring effective lawn maintenance during warm, dry weather, without using excessive amounts of water:

- The basic principle of lawn and garden watering is to not give more than is needed. Do not follow a fixed schedule. Water when the grass or plants show signs of needing it. During a cool or cloudy spell, you do not need to water as often.
- Let water sink in slowly. Lots of water applied fast mostly runs off into ditches. Also, if you let water sink deep, the lawn will develop deeper roots and won't need watering as often, as well as being more resistant to disease and wear.
- Heat and wind will rob your lawn of water before it can use it. Avoid watering on windy days and you will avoid having most of the water go where you don't want it. Water in the cool of the day, to avoid both excessive evaporation and the chance of harming the lawn.
- Early morning (before 10:00 a.m.) is the best time to water most lawns because rising heat later on tends to steal a lot of water by evaporation. Another good thing about early morning watering is that the leaves have chance to dry off quickly. Evening or night-time watering leaves the grass in cool, moist conditions that help lawn diseases develop.
- A kitchen timer is a handy reminder to turn sprinklers off. Make sure that when sprinklers are on they cover just the lawn or garden, not sidewalks, driveways and ditches.
- Let grass grow taller in hot weather. Use mulch in the garden and around shrubs to save moisture.

Following the above procedures will provide adequate water for a healthy lawn without adversely affecting emergency storage volumes.