

## MOWING YOUR LAWN

Raise your lawn mower so that it cuts at a two-and-a-half to three-inch height to shade the roots and hold in moisture. Always keep the mower blades sharpened to reduce the damage done to the grass.



## MULCH

Top-dress gardens with mulch. Not only will it discourage weed growth, it will help to keep the soil cool and reduce both evaporation and erosion. Mulches can be organic, (bark & wood chips), or inorganic, (rock & gravel).

## SOIL

Check to see if your lawn needs water by inserting a trowel 2 ½ -3 inches in the soil. If the soil is damp, your lawn doesn't require water. Similar tests can be done by squeezing the soil; moistened soil will hold its shape. Compacted soil can cause several lawn problems. To eliminate this problem aerate the soil.



## AERATE

Aeration encourages the exchange of air, moisture, and plant nutrients. Aerate your lawn in the spring and fall to loosen the soil and reduce runoff. After each aeration, top-dress the area with compost. This will keep the soil loose and hold water near the roots.

## GRASS RECYCLING

Leaving grass clippings on the lawn not only reduces landfill volume, it also provides many benefits such as improving lawn quality by putting nutrients back into the soil. Grass recycling also saves you time and money, it doesn't create thatch, and all mowers can grass recycle.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE CITY OF BRANTFORD, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT 519-759-1350 OR CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT:**

[www.brantford.ca](http://www.brantford.ca)

**JUST CLICK ON THE "WATER DROP"**



# IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN



Time to start thinking about your lawn and garden plans. Here are some helpful tips

**FOR KEEPING YOUR LAWN HEALTHY WHILE CONSERVING WATER!**

(Water Conservation Bylaw in effect throughout June, July & August, every year)

# LAWN AND GARDEN CARE

There are many things you can do to help cut your outdoor water use and lower your water bills without affecting the appearance of your lawn and garden. Here are a few tips for saving water in the garden.

## DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS

First, choose drought-tolerant plants. Drought-resistant plants save you time and money while increasing the natural beauty of your garden. Better yet, Xeriscape! Xeriscaping means simply landscaping with slow growing, drought



tolerant plants or native species that should require no more watering than what is provided by rain, once established. [To learn more about drought tolerant plants, pickup a Household Guide to Water Efficiency, at City Hall.](#)

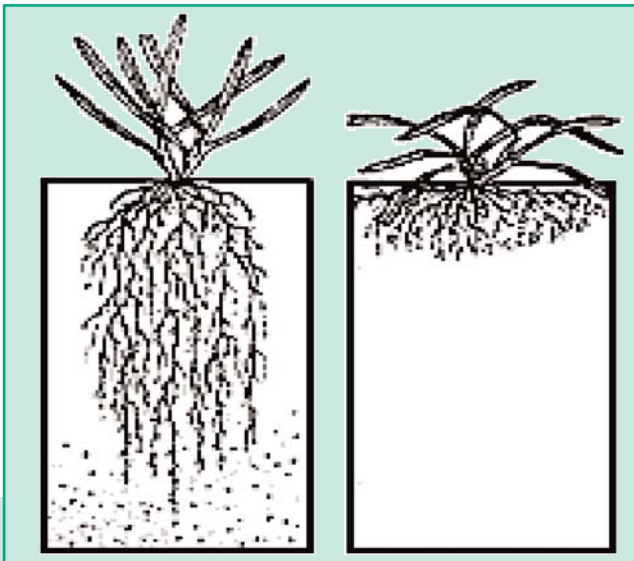
## WATERING YOUR LAWN



Lawn watering accounts for more than 60 percent of home water use. The quickest and easiest way to reduce a water bill is to eliminate over-watering and run-off. Lawns typically need 1 inch (2.5cm) of water

per week. Set an empty container or rain gauge near the sprinkler to measure the amount of water used. Stop watering when the container is one inch full. [Free rain gauges are available at City Hall.](#)

Lawns can only absorb water as quickly as the soil allows. It's better to water your lawn for three 10 minute sessions, with each session a half-hour apart, rather than to water steadily for 30 minutes and cause run-off. Use a kitchen timer as a reminder to turn sprinklers off.



Deep and infrequent irrigation tends to cause grass roots to grow deeper into the soil, making the plants more drought tolerant. Shallow and frequent watering lead to shallow-rooted plants with less drought tolerance.

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## RAINBARRELS

Rain barrels capture the water from your eaves through and are a great way to store up water that



can be used for watering anytime, regardless of local watering restrictions. In addition to saving money on your water bill, and managing excess storm water, rain barrels provide gardeners with an abundant supply of unchlorinated, rainwater for their plants and flowers.

## WHEN TO WATER

During hot weather in the Spring and Summer, the ideal watering time is before 9:00 am to reduce water loss due to evaporation and prevent both burning of grass from the hot sun and rotting of roots during warm nights. To test if lawn needs water, step on the grass. If it springs back, you don't need to water. If it stays flat, it's time to water again. Hand water dry patches rather than increasing the overall water time.

## GRASS



Your lawn is comprised of millions of individual grass plants. Like any other living thing, these plants eventually die. It is important to over-seed once every year to keep your lawn thick and healthy. A dense lawn will crowd out weeds like dandelions and crabgrass that crop up in bare or thinly covered patches. Seed with pest-resistant grasses such as perennial ryes and fescues and avoid high maintenance grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass. Plant in bare patches, add some compost or soil and water until the grasses become established.