

Water Conservation

Why Conserve Water ?

- Water use more than doubles in summer months.
- Over-watering of lawns wastes the most water. Half the water put on lawns is lost to runoff.
- Too much water on lawns weakens the root system of grass, making it vulnerable to disease and pests.

Creating water efficient landscapes can also mean creating beautiful, low maintenance landscapes. A beautiful lawn and garden does not require a lot of water, pesticides, fertilizers and effort.



Niagara  Region

**For further information
contact us at
www.smartgardening.ca**

The Natural Way for Niagara

Xeriscaping

Water efficient gardening or “xeriscaping” makes use of wide variety of low-water-demand perennial and annual plants, grasses, vines, trees and shrubs. By definition, water efficient or low-water gardening is the planting of vegetation suitable to the various conditions that exist around your property. (*Xeriscape* – from the Greek word “xeros” meaning dry, and “scape” from the word landscape – is a term developed by Denver Water in Colorado to describe water efficient landscaping.)

Advantages of water efficient plants and grasses

- Drought-resistant (require little or no watering during hot, dry periods)
- Easier, less costly to maintain
- More resistant to insect infestation and disease
- Excellent for planting in “difficult-to-grow areas”, such as steep slopes, poor quality soils
- Many species are attractive to birds and favourable insects, such as bees and butterflies
- Require little, if any, pesticides and fertilizers

Water efficient plant facts

- Plants with gray, fuzzy, waxy or finely divided leaves are drought tolerant.
- Scented herbs (e.g., lavender) produce aromatic oils that prevent the plant from drying out.
- Plants with larger leaves generally require more water.

- Water plants well until established (usually a full growing season).
- When planting, spread the roots of pot-bound plants for best results.

Lawn and garden watering tips

- Set your sprinkler to avoid watering patios, drives and walks.
- Water back from the tops of slopes, as water will run down the slope and seep into the soil.
- Sweep your driveway and walkway instead of washing with a hose.
- Recoil your hose on a hose wheel to prevent damage.
- Regularly check your hose for leaks.

More tips for saving water outdoors

- Apply a maximum of 2.5 cm (1 in.) of water per week to lawn to ensure deep root growth and help lawn stay healthy during hot, dry spells.
- Use bucket and sponge to wash and rinse cars – only need a light rinse to get rid of the soap.
- Cover swimming pools when not in use to reduce evaporation.
- Use bucket and squeegee to wash windows.
- Operate decorative fountains only when you’re there to enjoy them.
- When cleaning outdoor ornamental ponds, use wastewater to water lawns and gardens.