

How to water your lawn during the dry summer when water restrictions are in place

- Water your lawn once a week for only one hour or twice a week for 1/2 hour
A lawn only needs about one inch of water per week – use a small container to measure
- Know when to water
Walk on the lawn – if it springs back, no water is required, or put a screwdriver into the lawn – if the top two inches of the lawn is dry, then water
- Water in the early morning
This is the best time to minimize water lost through evaporation and wind
Evening watering leaves the grass wet for longer periods of time, increasing the risk of disease.
- Water only the lawn
Check your sprinkler to ensure you are watering the lawn and not the road or sidewalk.
- Don't over water
Too much water saturates the soil leading to poor soil aeration and weakening of grass, making it vulnerable to disease and invasion of weeds.

For more information, visit our website:
www.chilliwack.com

Or contact us at:

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City of Chilliwack

Want a great lawn this summer?

Even with water restrictions?

Find out how to maintain your lawn, save water, and save money!



City of Chilliwack

Here's how you can maintain your lawn, save water, and save money!

Start with a healthy lawn first

Lawns fail during dry spells because they weren't healthy to begin with. The main problem is compacted soil.

Act before dry spells and water restrictions

- De-thatch your lawn
Use a heavy rake or de-thatcher on your mower to get rid of dead grass and roots that prevent water, air, and nutrients from getting to the roots and harbouring harmful insects
- Aerate your lawn
Use an aerator to create holes in your lawn for better flow of water, air, and nutrients to the roots
- Spread $\frac{3}{8}$ inches of sand on your lawn to improve aeration
- Get soil tested for acidity and nutrients at local garden centres
- Spread the appropriate amount of lime on your lawn to reduce acidity
- Follow a fertilization program to encourage deep rooting and drought tolerance

What to do this summer during the dry spells

- Let your lawn turn brown
It will recover in the fall when the regular rains resume
- Mow high
Mow your lawn when the grass is 6 – 8 cm (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ – 3 inches) high
This develops a deep extensive root system and better retains moisture
- Keep mower blade sharp
A dull blade tears the grass causing more moisture loss
- Mow the lawn without the bag
Leave lawn clippings on the lawn to retain moisture
- Avoid over fertilization
Too much fertilization requires more moisture for your lawn and requires more cutting
- Keep weeds out
Water hungry weeds soak up water so pull them or use a spot weed killer



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