



For a healthy, drought and stress tolerant lawn and landscape, use less water. Adopting water savvy habits also is essential to maintaining and extending your community's water supply, especially during peak use.

Water-efficient habits will result in a healthier lawn and landscape, in addition to conserving water and saving money.

With some simple practices and new technology, existing irrigation systems can be made more efficient:

- Lower your water bill
- Reduce run-off
- Eliminate wasted water

The Irrigation Association® has named July



Smart Irrigation Month to provide tips about smart practices and new technology. Learn what you can do to operate your system at peak efficiency throughout the year at www.smartirrigationmonth.org.

TO LEARN MORE, GO TO
WWW.IRRIGATIONBC.COM



IRRIGATION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF B.C.
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waterbucket



***WATERING
CAN BE EFFICIENT!***

**FINE-TUNE YOUR IRRIGATION
SYSTEM TO SAVE
WATER AND MONEY.**

Residential irrigation systems (e.g. automatic sprinkler systems) offer convenience and control in protecting your landscape investment. Sprinkler systems help you to enjoy your yard, and keep it healthy and beautiful. However, many homeowners over-water their lawns or waste water through inefficient habits. The key to efficient outdoor irrigation is applying just enough water and only when necessary. The Irrigation Industry Association of B.C. offers the following water-saving tips to maintain and update automatic irrigation systems:

**SEASONS CHANGE, SO SHOULD YOUR SYSTEM.**

Familiarize yourself with the settings on your irrigation controller and adjust the watering schedule regularly to conform with seasonal weather conditions.

PLAY “ZONE” DEFENSE.

Schedule each individual zone in your irrigation system to account for the type of sprinkler, sun or shade exposure, and the soil type for the specific area. The same watering schedule rarely applies to all zones in the system. A scheduling calculator tool is online at www.irrigationbc.com

**MAKE IT A DATE.**

Inspect your irrigation system monthly. Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads, and other problems, or engage an irrigation professional to regularly check your system. Clean micro-irrigation filters as needed.

GET YOUR HEAD ADJUSTED.

Correct obstructions in sprinkler heads that prevent sprinklers from distributing water evenly. Keep water off pavement and structures.

**GET SMART.**

Climate or soil moisture sensor-based “smart” controllers evaluate weather or soil moisture conditions, then calculate and automatically adjust the irrigation schedule to meet the specific needs of your landscape. Evapotranspiration data is also available at www.farmwest.com

GO WITH A PRO.

A professional can perform an irrigation audit and uniformity test to make sure areas are being watered evenly. This can be especially helpful if you have areas being under-watered or brown spots. The Irrigation Industry Association of B.C. maintains an online list of Certified Professionals including Landscape Irrigation Auditors, Designers, Technicians and Certified Irrigation Contractor companies. (www.irrigationbc.com)

**FLIP TO A SWITCH.**

Rain shutoff switches, turn off your system in rainy weather and help compensate for natural rainfall. This inexpensive device can be retrofitted to almost any system.

**EASY DOES IT.**

Install low-volume microirrigation for gardens, trees, and shrubs. Microirrigation includes drip (also known as trickle), microspray jets, microsprinklers, or bubbler irrigation to irrigate slowly and minimize evaporation, runoff, and overspray.

WATCH THE CLOCK.

Water when the sun is low or down, winds are calm, and temperatures are cool—between the evening and early morning—to reduce evaporation. You can lose as much as 30 percent of water to evaporation by watering mid-day.

LESS IS MORE.

Saturate root zones and let the soil dry. Watering too much and too frequently results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease, and fungus.