



WaterWise Weekly

July, 6 2009

WaterWise Plant and Landscape Irrigation

There are many ways to save water, while still maintaining a beautiful garden and landscape throughout your yard. Here are some ideas:

- Fill a watering can to water plants around the yard instead of using a hose. Or use a bucket with a few holes in the bottom, fill it with water and set it next to a tree, shrub, or plant that needs watering. This allows water to slowly and deeply infiltrate instead of running off.
- If you have new landscaping or trees that require regular watering, use a soaker hose or drip irrigation instead of a sprinkler. This allows more water to be used more efficiently by your trees, shrubs, and other plants.
- When using a hose is necessary, use a nozzle that can restrict or stop flow when not in use.
- Use a timer on your spigot or a timed sprinkler. Some timers and sprinklers calculate by the amount of water used. When a certain amount is reached, the water shuts off. Both types are available at Merlin's ACE Hardware in Chanhassen's Market Square. **Use the coupon in this newsletter for \$5 off a spigot or sprinkler timer.**
- Plant or preserve native, drought-tolerant, and low-maintenance plants and landscaping features that require less water.
- When shopping at the nursery, ask yourself if you have a spot in your yard that meets the conditions that the plant requires before buying that species. Don't buy a plant that will end up needing a lot of extra water and care once you bring it home.
- Use shredded, hardwood mulch around trees, shrubs, plants, and in the garden. You can also use grass clippings, leaves, or other natural materials in your garden and landscaping to reduce mowing and retain moisture, which also reduces the amount of watering needed.
- Leave shrubs in their natural form. Excessive trimming stresses shrubs, requiring more watering.

Irrigation Users:
Adjust your system
to run **100%** of
your full cycle time.

Click **HERE** for a sample
irrigation schedule

Use 'Hydrozoning' when planning garden plots around your yard. This means planting plants with similar watering needs together, planting plants that require more water near a water source or in a moist place in your yard, and planting plants that need little water farther away and in drier areas. For information on plants, and their moisture needs, visit:

[http://www.conservewater.
utah.gov/outdooruse/
otherplants/.](http://www.conservewater.utah.gov/outdooruse/otherplants/)



soaker hose or drip irrigation

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Learning Opportunities & Events

Summer Exhibition

Waterosity: Go Green with a Splash Party
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, July 11-12
www.arboretum.umn.edu

Come wet your toes in the green wave of fresh thinking about how to live wisely with our freshwater resources. Find out how to enjoy great gardening and living, both now and looking ahead to the future.

Weekend Kick-off Education Event:
Money-Saving Solutions for your Landscape Irrigation System
Saturday, July 11, 9 am – 11 am
\$20 Arboretum members & Chanhassen residents,
\$30 non-members

Discover how you can help save money and conserve life by supporting water, an increasingly scarce resource even in Minnesota. The EPA estimates that landscape irrigation systems waste 50 percent of the water they apply due to wind, evaporation, and improper system design, installation, or maintenance. Many solutions that reduce irrigation water usage are simple and easy. Others require initial investments that quickly pay for themselves. As the class covers these solutions, students will learn how soil, plants and the environment interact to create or temper water demand. The class will review emerging technologies that can reduce water waste and enhance irrigation efficiency.

Info Fair & Demonstrations
11 am – 3 pm, July 11 & 12

Information booths by an array of organizations including the MN Green Roof Council, MN Water Garden Society, and Freshwater Society. University of MN Extensions staff and trained Master Gardeners will be on hand at prime Waterosity "Demonstration Stations" throughout the gardens. Get your questions answered about rain gardens, green roofs, rain barrels, low-input lawns, drought tolerant plantings, plants that live in the water, shoreline stabilizing, waterwise gardening tips and more!

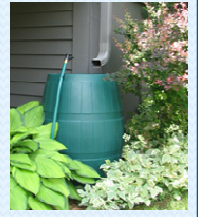
Green & Blue Express
\$2.50 per person

Departs Oswald Visitor Center 11 am, 12:30, 2:00, and 3:30 pm
All aboard for an exciting family-friendly tram ride with activities, songs, and games. This one hour hands-on tour of Waterosity features is led by family programs staff. Follow water as it moves through trees and plants, into the atmosphere, as rain, flowing into our lives. Purchase tickets at the Oswald Visitor Center Information Desk. The tram accommodates 42 people with one wheelchair space. Reservations for groups of 15 or more can be made in advance with a \$50 non-refundable deposit to confirm.



*Free door prizes
& drawings*

**Monthly
Drawing!**
July Prize
Rainbarrel
Drawing July 20



COUPON

MERLIN'S **ACE**
The helpful place.
HARDWARE
Hwy 5 & Market Blvd
(Market Square Center)

\$5 off timed sprinkler



COUPON

Valid July 6-July 31, 2009

Resources:

To learn more about:

- **Choosing the right mulch,** click [HERE](#)
- **Design and Plant selection for water conservation,** click [HERE](#)