



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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September 12, 2008

Dear Resident:

Let me start by thanking all of you who made an effort to conserve water this summer. Please keep up the good work - the drought is not over yet. Every gallon saved this fall is a gallon that can be used in 2009 if the drought continues. Reductions in water consumption now will help to reduce the chance and severity of mandatory rationing in 2009.

Staff members at the City of Antioch are hoping for a very wet year while planning for a continued drought. There are many ways we can save water both indoors and outdoors. Listed below are conservation tips to help each of us do our part to save this precious resource - water.

Outdoors

Fall Back to Savings: The shorter days and the cooler temperatures make Fall irrigation needs much lower. By adjusting your irrigation schedule now you are giving your plants time to grow deeper root systems that will prepare them for the extreme temperatures of winter and summer!

Sample Fall Irrigation Schedule: Mid-August and September might feel hot to us humans, but for plants the days are shorter and the sun is lower in the sky. This is more vital to the plant's water needs than the ambient temperature. Fall is a good time to plant new plants in your yard. The mild weather will give them the nurturing they need to become established before the winter temperatures drop.

- September: Lawns - 2-3 days per week (depending on temperature and plant water needs), Shrubs - 1 day/week
- October: Lawns - 2 days/week, Shrubs - off or 1 day/week (depending on temperature and plant water needs)
- November: Lawns - 1 day/week, Shrubs - off. If it rains, turn your system off. Don't turn it back on until it has not rained for at least a week!

Indoors

Leaks: Check for leaks in your toilets by adding food coloring to the water in the Tank. If the color appears in the bowl within ten minutes, it means you have a leak. Typically, the leak is a result of the water level being set too high, or the flapper may need to be replaced. Leaks can cause a significant water waste in an otherwise conserving household, so get them fixed!

Turn that faucet off: Make a point to turn the faucet off when you don't need the water running such as while brushing your teeth or shaving. Instead of running the water while doing the dishes put a small amount of water in the sink.

For more information about the drought and for more water saving tips, sign up for the Contra Costa Water District's Conservation E-Newsletter at <http://www.ccwater.com/>. For more information about the City of Antioch's environmental programs visit www.ci.antioch.ca.us/environment or call the Environmental Resource Line at (925) 779-6137.

Make Every Drop Count,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Julie Haas-Wajdowicz'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Julie Haas-Wajdowicz
Environmental Resource Coordinator