

## Water Wise Irrigation and Lawn Watering Tips from Newport News Waterworks

- **Consider soil type.** The type of soil you have determines how quickly water can be absorbed. Watering more than the soil can absorb causes runoff and waste.
- **Time of day is important.** Water early in the morning or late in the day to prevent evaporation.
- **Get to know your sprinkler.** Learn how to use the controls to keep water on your lawn and landscaping, not on your driveway or street.
- **Don't water when it's windy.** The water will land in places you had not intended (like the driveway or sidewalk).
- **Use a rain gauge.** In Hampton Roads, our lawns only need an inch of water a week. If you receive a half inch of rainfall, a half inch is all you'll need to water. How do you know when you've watered a half inch? Use your rain gauge while your watering to measure how much water you are putting down.



If you have a built-in irrigation system, please consider the following:



- **Get in the zone.** Schedule each individual zone in your irrigation system to account for type of sprinkler, sun or shade exposure, and soil in that section. Different zones will almost always need different watering schedules.
- **Don't send water down the drain.** Set sprinklers to water plants, not your driveway, sidewalk, patio or building.
- **Water only when needed.** Saturate root zones and let the soil dry. Watering too much and too frequently results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease and fungus.
- **Adapt watering to the season.** Familiarize yourself with the settings on your irrigation controller and adjust the watering schedule regularly based on seasonal weather conditions. Or invest in a smart controller so your system can make these changes automatically.
- **A final thought:** consider reducing the amount of lawn by creating "natural areas" using drought tolerant native plants and rock gardens.