



The **North Harris County Regional Water Authority** (NHCRWA) was created by the 76th Texas Legislature and confirmed by voters in a special election held in January 2000). It was assigned the responsibility for obtaining and delivering a long-term supply of potable water at the lowest responsible cost for the water users within its boundaries.

The NHCRWA has negotiated a fair, cost-effective, long-term water supply contract with the City of Houston to provide quality potable water to meet the conversion mandates over the next 30 years. The individual water districts will continue to supply water to their customers, and everyone throughout the Authority will help to pay for the new system and future supply of surface water.



Visit us online...  
[www.nhcrwa.com](http://www.nhcrwa.com)

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## Using Water More Efficiently for Lawn and Garden

*The water we conserve today can  
serve us tomorrow.*



**STOP THE DROP!**  
Use water wisely...

## Using Water More Efficiently for Lawn and Garden



Experts warn that we waste as much as half of the water we use around the house during the summer months when 50 to 80 percent of our water consumption is used outside. Using this valuable resource more efficiently can save both water and money.

Use native plants and shrubs whenever possible in landscaping your yard. They generally require watering less frequently, and are often low-maintenance, too. Different varieties of grasses, plants and soils also require different amounts of water.

In Houston, St. Augustine grass has a high “thirst” requirement. Experts suggest that grass should be watered separately from flower beds and landscaped areas. When original landscape planning is an option, “zone” plants according to their water requirements.

Use the kind of watering equipment to suit your “target.” Use sprinklers – ones that broadcast large drops are best – for the lawn areas, and soaker hoses or drip irrigation systems for trees, shrubs and flower beds.

Using a good mulch layer in flower beds and landscape areas helps to hold down weed growth that can siphon off water from your plants, and helps retain the moisture in the soil. “Zoning” plants according to their water requirements in your landscape plan can also help you water more efficiently.

Look for signs of stress – limp or curled, dull green blades of grass, for example, or footprints left behind after walking across the lawn. Delivering 3/4 to 1 inch of water (subtracting any rainfall) during summer months will wet the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches.

Use drip or trickle irrigation – the slow, frequent application of small amounts of water to the soil area directly surrounding the plant roots – to take care of gardens and landscaped areas. *Drip irrigation can save up to 60 percent of water delivered by other systems.*

By using our water supplies efficiently, we can hold down our water bills, which can minimize the long-term impact on our pocketbooks as this valuable resource becomes more costly in the years ahead.



### **Add a little color...**

Color looks great by the front door or in the back yard where you can see it from a window or the patio, and adding a small flowerbed or a container can make a great impression. Measure the area and figure out how many square feet it is to help you determine the number of plants and how much soil amendments and mulch to purchase.

If a plant grows 2 feet wide, you need one plant every 2 feet. If the plant grows 6 inches wide, you need a plant every 6 inches.

Once plants are in the ground, cover the soil with a good layer of mulch and water it gently. The water will settle the soil and mulch. Water every day for about a week if it does not rain.

