



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...
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Using Water More Efficiently in the Yard

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



STOP THE DROP!
Use water wisely...

Using Water More Efficiently in the Yard



The simple answer to how much should you water your plants is enough is that you should water when plants need water. Of course many variables can affect this. Different plants have different water needs. Soils have different water-holding capacities. Sprinkler systems differ. Some plants have a protective layer of mulch. As the temperature rises and the days lengthen, transpiration (water loss from the leaves) and evaporation from the soil increases. So June's lawn watering schedule will differ from the schedule used later in the summer.

Watering infrequently and deeply is the key to forcing grass and plants to grow deep roots so they can access water for a longer period of time and thrive through the long, hot summer. Water close to the surface evaporates long before the deeper moisture. Homeowners who water every other day are overwatering. Air is forced out of soil that is continually saturated. Since roots need

air, overwatering tends to promote very shallow roots.

As a general rule, proper watering means applying 1 to 1-1/2 inches of water per week. How long you run your sprinkler system depends on how much water the system applies. To figure out how long to run your system or sprinkler, place small empty 1 inch deep cat food or tuna cans (at least 3) over the area the sprinkler covers.

Water the length of time you think is correct. Each can should have the same amount of water, about 1 inch. If the cans contain less than 1 inch of water, you need to water longer. If the cans have an uneven amount of water, the distribution of water needs adjustment.

According to the Texas Water Development Board's Lawn Watering Guide, apply enough water to wet the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches. Use a soil probe (available at most garden centers) to help determine exactly how deep the water penetrates.



Use a sprinkler that emits large drops of water that remain close to the ground, not one that sprays a fine mist into the air. Water during the early morning or evening hours since evaporation

losses will be up to 60 percent higher during the day. Do not water on windy days, and set the sprinkler so that that lawn is watered, not sidewalks and driveways.



Remember not to cut the grass too short. Longer blades of grass will reduce evaporation and root stress since shaded soil will not dry out as quickly. Be sure to control any insects that attack your lawn quickly and completely.

A reasonable amount of fertilizing is necessary to develop the root system and to help keep the lawn healthy. Too much fertilizer, however, will lead to excessive growth, which will then require more watering. Many experts recommend leaving the grass clippings on the lawn, which will minimize the need for additional fertilizer.

