

Water Conservation for Golf Courses

Water Control

- Read water meters daily to monitor the success of water conservation efforts.
- Fix leaks in the irrigation system as soon as they are detected. Cap any sprinkler head that waters non-priority areas.
- Only add water to lakes that are essential to the ecology or are needed to maintain trees and shrubs planted near the water line.
- Use aerial photographs of the irrigation system to determine which sprinkler heads should be shut down or altered.
- Use accurate timing methods to control the frequency and duration of watering. Install flow controls in sprinkler heads.
- Replace full-circle sprinkler heads with half-circle heads where appropriate.
- Investigate the advantages of installing drip irrigation systems for trees and shrubs.
- Wetting agents can improve water retention in some areas. Wetting agents react differently depending on soil content; care should be taken in their selection.
- Fertilize in cool weather using small doses of nutrients to build a strong plant. Fertilizing in the summer months induces growth, which requires additional watering, and should be avoided.
- Grass length is an important factor in water usage. In the summer months, mowers should be raised. The optimum grass length depends upon many conditions, including the type of grass.
- Remove thatch that restricts water, air and nutrient movement into the turf's root zone.
- Weeds compete for water and should be controlled by use of an appropriate registered herbicide or by hand removal.

Water Usage

- Infrequent deep watering of grass conserves more water than frequent light waterings. Do not overwater. This encourages weak grass to compete with other grasses.
- Follow National Weather Service forecasts. In periods where there is a high probability of rain, don't water.
- Generally, hand watering is the least effective means of conserving water. However, the sprinkler systems surrounding a green (perimeter watering) are not always efficient. If large sand traps or roughs are being watered, hand watering the green would be advisable.
- Watering should be done at night or in the early morning when evaporation and wind are at a minimum.
- Hand wash all equipment and machinery by using budgeted amounts of water rather than hoses. Wash golf carts less often.
- Eliminate the washing of walks, driveways and other paved areas. Use a broom or rake instead.
- Increase employee awareness of water conservation. Conduct contests (e.g., posters, slogans, or conservation ideas) and locate conservation suggestion boxes in prominent areas.
- Install signs that encourage water conservation in employee and customer restrooms and common areas.
- As appliances or fixtures wear out, replace with water-saving models.
- Reduce the load on air conditioning units by shutting air conditioning off when and where it is not needed.
- Reduce the water used in toilet flushing by either adjusting the vacuum flush mechanism or installing tank displacement devices (dams, bottles or bags).
- Maintain insulation on hot water pipes.
- Check water supply system for leaks and turn off any unnecessary flows. Repair leaking faucets, showers and continuously running toilets. Install flow reducers and faucet aerators on all plumbing fixtures.
- Use paper cups for drinking water instead of free flowing drinking fountains.
- Conservation suggestions for restaurants are available from the Board of Water Supply.

Grass and Soil Conservation Techniques

- Aeration and spiking relieve soil compaction and assist water entry into soil.
- Use peat moss, redwood bark or calcine clay where possible to retain moisture at turf root levels.
- Use mulch on bald spots to retain moisture and discourage weeds.
- Apply antitranspirants where beneficial.

Clubhouse and Tennis Courts

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Keep Informed on New Developments

- Read the latest scientific information on agriculture, agronomy and water usage.
- Read professional journals and magazines and learn what others are doing.

For more information, visit our website at www.boardofwatersupply.com, or contact the Board of Water Supply at 748-5041 