



# WATER MATTERS

Safe, dependable, and affordable water, now and into the future

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## Easy Ways to Reduce Household Water Use by 10%



Average family water use is  
**200 gallons/day --**  
**10% of 200 = 20 gallons**

### Ideas to help save 20 gallons

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) is asking all of Oahu to voluntarily cut water usage by 10 percent to keep our sources healthy and sustainable.

For the average single-family household, which uses about 6,000 gallons per month, this is about 20 gallons of water a day.

Here are ways each person can save water daily that doesn't require much effort:

- Turn water off while brushing teeth:  
*4 gallons saved*
- Turn water off while shaving:  
*4-5 gallons saved*

- Turn water off while washing dishes and turn it on only to rinse them:  
*10 gallons saved*
- Cut your shower time by 2 minutes:  
*5 gallons saved*
- Fill up the bathtub only halfway:  
*15-30 gallons saved, depending on tub size*

Other suggestions:

- Do one large load of laundry a week, versus more frequent, smaller loads:  
*15 - 45 gallons saved/load*
- Run dishwasher only with a full load:  
*5 - 15 gallons saved/load*



- Collect water from your shower while waiting for it to warm up and use it on your plants:  
*up to 2.5 gallons saved/minute.*

Use the water you need, but don't waste any. Every effort to reduce water use helps.

Remember, if we each save a little water, then together we save a lot!

## Get Updates on Oahu's Water Supply at [Protectoahuwater.org](http://Protectoahuwater.org)

Visit [www.protectoahuwater.org](http://www.protectoahuwater.org) for the latest on Board of Water Supply (BWS) operational actions in response to the Red Hill crisis.

This includes:

- Weekly pumping charts for usage island-wide, for metropolitan Honolulu, and for Aiea-to-Halawa
- BWS well test results
- BWS news and updates on Red Hill
- Current and past issues of the BWS's Waiwai e-newsletter
- Water conservation tips and rebates
- Conservation public service announcements
- Oahu's water history

## BWS Promotes Smart Outdoor Water Use in July

The Board of Water Supply will celebrate Smart Irrigation Month in July to promote efficient outdoor water use at a time when demand is typically the highest.

About 30% of water used in a single-family home is for outdoor use; half of which is wasted by overwatering and leaks.

Ways to conserve water are almost as endless as the amount of gallons we can conserve.

### Conserving:

- Use a rain barrel to collect rain to water your lawn/garden.
- Water your lawn before 9 AM and after 5 PM.
- Put a nozzle on your garden hose to save 100 gallons of water in just minutes.

- Watering your lawn a couple of times a week promotes deeper root growth.
- Fix misdirected sprinklers.

### Planting:

- Plant drought tolerant and native plants.
- Use mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation.

### Leaks:

- Check irrigation water lines and sprinkler heads for leaks.
- Look for patches of greener grass.
- If your monthly water bill is unusually high, you may have a leak.

By protecting our water resources from depleting, we can ensure an adequate water supply today and into the future. More at [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com).

# Fast-Growing Albizia Trees Threaten Oahu's Watershed Lands



*Albizia trees line a hillside along Kamehameha Highway in Kaneohe.*

Albizia (*Falcataria moluccana*), the fastest growing tree in the world, is a serious threat to Oahu's watershed lands.

This non-native tropical tree:

- quickly outgrows and shades out native Hawaiian forest plants that capture mists and rainwater that recharge our aquifers.
- can alter an entire ecosystem by increasing soil nitrogen levels that promote growth of other invasive plants.
- takes up all remaining resources, preventing keiki plants of many native species from developing. This reduces native bird habitat quality.

The Board of Water Supply (BWS), as a Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership (KMWP) member, is helping raise public awareness of albizia and what people can do to help control its spread.

Its rapid growth rate – up to 15 feet/year – produces a massive number of trunks and

limbs that are weak and brittle. Large trees are prone to “sudden limb shear” -- failure and collapse of live branches with no sign of physical weakness, and without apparent cause.

The most effective way to combat albizia spread is to control the seedlings. However, there is only about a one-year window in which seedlings can be manually pulled and easily controlled. After that, the tree needs to be cut down or treated in place.

With larger albizia, it is very important to assess each tree to see if it poses a hazard to infrastructure or property. It is highly recommended that a certified arborist be used when removing them.

With large-scale infestations across the state and continual encroachment into urban and rural lands, control of albizia seems nearly impossible. However, there



*Satellite views in 2011 and 2021 indicate the spread of this highly invasive tree across uncultivated land on the North Shore in 10 years.*

are dedicated groups of organizations and individuals who are taking on the challenge.

Community control teams, such as the Big Island Invasive Committee's Albizia Assassins on Hawaii Island and KMWP's Rapid Albizia Death Hui on Oahu, coordinate and train volunteers in the skills needed to identify, treat, and track removal efforts to reduce albizia populations at a local level.

For more information, visit: <http://koolauwatershed.org/albizia/>. (Mahalo to KMWP staff for the information in this article.)



*Leaves consist of small, elliptic-shaped leaflets ranging from light to dark green.*



*The bark is smooth to slightly warty and grayish cream in color.*



*Seed pods are green and ripen to brown, strap-shaped bean pods with brown, disk-shaped seeds.*



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Water Supply**

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