

Healthy Lawns and Watering

For many homeowners, the residential lawn is the symbol of a well-tended property. Unfortunately, keeping your lawn emerald-green, barefoot-soft and dandelion-free requires a significant amount of attention, and can have serious impacts on local waterways. Careless watering can wash pollutants into the Clinton River, deplete water supplies and can actually cause more harm to your lawn than good. One important thing to remember is that the purpose for lawn watering is to reduce heat stress on the lawn, not just to provide water for green grass growth. Preserve the environment, save money and water by following these simple steps when watering your lawn:

Lawn Watering with Irrigation Systems:

1. Segregate your lawn sprinklers from your garden sprinklers. Unlike most turf grass used in Michigan, most perennial plants don't need watering every day.
2. You should determine if ALL sprinkler heads are working properly. Are any sprinkler heads broken?
3. According to research performed at Michigan State University, turf grass should be watered every day, during mid-day, when temperatures and humidity are greatest. Approximately 5 minutes of watering is recommended for mist head sprinkler systems, and 8 to 10 minutes for rotary head systems.
4. Use common sense. Consider the weather forecast before watering.
5. Keep in mind, it is okay not to water at all! Turf grass irrigation is a matter of choice, not obligation.

NOTE: Watering every day at light rates manages pests more effectively and produces less weeds. However, if you prefer, watering your lawn 2 to 3 times per week, for no longer than 15 minutes each time is also suitable for keeping your lawn green and healthy.

For more information, contact the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) at: (248) 601-0606, or Tom Smith, Executive Director, Michigan Turfgrass Foundation at: (517) 202-3019.

