

TIPS FOR SAVING WATER THIS SUMMER



Did you know watering our lawns accounts for half or more of all the water we use at home? And this Texas heat has us watering even more. If you're looking for ideas on how to use less water, follow these helpful tips:

SAVING WATER ON THE LAWN:

- Give the sprinkler a rest sometimes - in Texas, we tend to water our lawns too often and too long.
- Inch toward conservation - apply no more than an inch of water per week. This will encourage deeper root systems and healthier grass.
- Cycle and soak to avoid runoff - it takes a while for water to soak into Texas clay soils. Try running zones in shorter bursts, with one hour between cycles.
- Check your irrigation system regularly - fix leaks or damaged sprinkler heads and make sure they're aimed at the landscape and not the street or sidewalk.
- Don't cut your grass too short - taller grass holds moisture better and slows down evaporation.

SAVING WATER AROUND THE YARD:

- Opt for drip irrigation - for flower beds, ground cover, vegetable gardens and container plants.
- Add some mulch - a three to four-inch layer in flower beds or around trees and shrubs will help retain moisture.
- Grow native and adaptive plants - these thrive on less water, can take the Texas heat and are easier to maintain. Learn more at txsmartscape.com.
- Need to wash your car? -Take it to a car wash that uses a water recycling system. If you do wash it at home, use a bucket of water and a hose with a nozzle on it to stop flow between rinsing.

DON'T WATER BETWEEN 10 AM AND 6PM

The City of Mansfield's [Water Conservation Plan](#) prohibits outdoor watering with an irrigation system between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. According to the Texas A&M University School of Irrigation, the optimal time to water is between 3 and 6 a.m. Up to 30 percent of the water sprayed on lawns during the heat of the day can be lost to evaporation.

IS MANSFIELD CURRENTLY UNDER A WATERING RESTRICTION?

No current watering restrictions are in place. However, with the triple-digit heat and little to no rainfall, we encourage residents to be mindful of their water use during this extended period of drought, and to check the City's website and social media channels for any changes regarding water restrictions. Read about how restrictions are put in place in the City's [Drought Contingency Plan](#).

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY WATERING ADVICE

Not sure when and how much to water your lawn? If so, sign up for free weekly watering advice to help manage your lawn's thirst. After signing up, you will receive free email or text reminders telling you what your lawn needs every week. Sign up at savetarrantwater.com.

REGISTER FOR A TEXAS SMARTSCAPE CLASS

Planting and maintaining a Texas SmartScape helps protect our waterways and conserves our water resources. Register today for these upcoming online classes:

- Tough Texas Lawn Care, Aug. 7- 13
- Gardening for Pollinators, Sept. 4 - 10
- Backyard Composting, Sept. 25 - Oct. 1

Click [HERE](#) for more information and registration links.



SAVING WATER INDOORS

In the bathroom:

- Fix leaking faucets and toilets - it's easy and could save you thousands of gallons of water per year.
- Test your toilets for leaks - place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait 15-20 minutes. If you see color in the bowl, you have a leak.
- Adjust the float device in your toilet so the water shuts off about an inch below the overflow tube - if there is an increase in water pressure, it can cause "water-creep" inside the tank, causing continuous running of the toilet.
- Replace older toilets - replacing older toilets with high efficiency models could lower your home's water use by 15 percent.
- Take a shower instead of a bath - a bath can use more than twice as much water as a 10-minute shower.
- Then, cut a couple of minutes off your shower time - that will save you about four gallons per shower.
- Switch to low-flow shower heads.
- Install aerators on your faucets.
- Turn the faucet off while brushing your teeth or shaving - running the faucet for a few minutes can waste up to two or more gallons.

In the kitchen and laundry:

- Load up the dishwasher - waiting until you have full loads saves water and energy.
- Don't rinse your dishes before you put them in the dishwasher - scraping instead of rinsing can save you 10 or more gallons of water per load.
- Don't leave the water running when washing dishes by hand - fill the second side of the sink with rise water instead.
- Feed the compost pile, not the disposal - place food scraps in a container near the sink for later composting, and try to use the disposal less often.
- Install aerators on your faucet.
- Load up that machine - wait until you have a full load when washing clothes.
- Make your next washer an Energy Star model - replace a conventional washer with a high-efficiency one, lowering your energy bills and using about 38 percent less water. That's 5,000 -7,000 gallons per year for the average household!

REGISTER FOR A SAVE TARRANT WATER SUMMMER SAVINGS CLASS

It's hot out there, but your lawn is tougher than you think! Check out these free online classes that will help you manage your water use:

- DIY Sprinkler Repair, July 26 at 6pm
- DIY Sprinkler Savings, Aug. 9 at 6pm
- DIY Rainwater Harvesting, Aug. 23 at 6pm
- DIY Sprinkler Savings, Sept. 6 at 6pm
- DIY Drip Irrigation, Sept. 20 at 6pm

Click [HERE](#) to get all the info and to register.

REGISTER FOR THE ONLINE WATERSMART CUSTOMER PORTAL



WaterSmart helps you track your home's water use with an easy-to-use digital portal, and provides you with the tools to manage your water use:

- View your home's water use.
- Get personalized actions on ways to save water.
- See how your water use compares to similar homes.
- Sign up for alerts and notifications to take control of your water use.
- Get access to tip and tricks to help you conserve water.

Using the account number listed on your water bill, log on to mansfieldwater.watersmart.com to register and get started. Questions? Contact Utility Billing customer service at 817-276-4230.

GET A FREE MIRROR CLING FOR THE BATHROOM:

Order free mirror clings from Take Care of Texas to remind everyone in your household to turn off the faucet when shaving or brushing their teeth. Click [HERE](#) to order.



Have questions about your water bill or usage? Contact Utility Billing at 817-276-4230.

SEVEN STEPS TO A SMART YARD

No matter what point you are starting from, you can add ease, comfort and enjoyment to your yard or garden by using native and adaptive plants. Follow these seven steps by txsmartscape.com:

1. Plan and Design - start with the end in mind. Once you have a solid idea of what you want, look critically at what you've got.
2. Reduce Turf - less turf means more time to enjoy your lawn, and more money saved because you won't have to water as much.
3. Soil - organic matter is the key to a solid foundation to help your plants thrive. Compost helps to condition the soil.
4. Planting - the right plant in the right place using the SmartScape plant database to find native and adaptive plants for your area.
5. Mulch - this helps reduce evaporation and cools soils in the summer by up to 10 degrees.
6. Water-Wise - efficient irrigation will save you money. It is best to water in the early morning.
7. Maintenance - Regularity and moderation should guide your maintenance schedule. Avoid excessive pruning as natural beauty softens the landscape.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the seven steps to a smart yard.

WHY SMARTSCAPE?

SmartScapes are NOT:

- Desert scapes
- Rock gardens
- Cactus plants

SmartScapes ARE:

- Well adapted to the Texas heat
- Drought tolerant
- Pest and disease resistant
- Attractants of beneficial animals and insects

By Using Native and Adaptive Plants, You:

- Conserve precious water
- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Prevent water pollution
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Save time and money



TAKE THE PLEDGE

Join takecareoftexas.org in keeping our air and water clean, conserving water and end energy, and reducing



waste by pledging to Take Care of Texas. The pledge signifies your commitment to protecting the Texas environment with every day actions. To thank you for your pledge, they will mail you a free Texas State Parks Guide and sticker. [Take the pledge](#) today!



JUST A TRICKLE OF WATER CAN GET THE JOB DONE

The Texas Trickle encourages you to rethink how much water you need when you're at the sink. Instead of turning on the faucet to full-blast pressure, and wasting water, use just a trickle. A little water can go a long way when washing our hands or face, brushing our teeth and rinsing plates or produce. [Read more about how to conserve water](#) with the Texas Trickle at takecareoftexas.org.

IS RAINWATER HARVESTING ILLEGAL IN TEXAS?



Has someone told you that the state of Texas or your local government can prevent you from harvesting rainwater on your own property? The answer is NO! In fact, there are Texas laws and tax incentives to encourage us to harvest rainwater. Why harvest rainwater? The water is free, and can be used to water container plants, landscapes and gardens (plants LOVE rainwater!). It can also help reduce flow to storm water drains and reduce stream pollution. [Visit the Take Care of Texas website](#) and get all the answers and more information.



Want to learn even MORE ways to conserve water? Visit wateruseitwisely.com for over 100 water-saving tips for both home and work.

CURRENT CLIMATE IMPACTS ON THE TRWD WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM



Mansfield Water Utilities (MWU), in collaboration with Tarrant Regional Water district (TRWD), continually monitors the potential impacts of climate trends on the total water supply storage within the system. TRWD watersheds have not received the typical rainfall experienced over the past several years. Overall, the Dallas-Fort Worth area is at a 7.88-inch precipitation deficit for 2022. Additionally, June has consistently recorded above-average temperatures, with several days reaching 10 degrees above the expected normal. MWU and other TRWD primary customers experienced record high flows in the quarter.

TRWD has been preparing for a hot, dry, high-demand summer and fall. Every month, TRWD runs a forecast model to establish an approximate envelope of potential storage conditions given a range of possible climates. The results of the most recent model run on June 21, 2022, indicate a slight chance that TRWD's total system storage may reach Stage 1 drought conditions by early October in a dry climate state. The results of this forecast are shown below.

If MWU needs to implement stage 1 "Water Watch" as defined in the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan, staff will coordinate with the City Council and City Management first, followed by notifying the public and then the TCEQ. The water use reduction goal for stage 1 is to decrease use by 5% through increased public education and implementation of a twice-per-week watering schedule for landscape irrigation. We will continue to work with TRWD to monitor climate trends and impacts on available water supply and provide updates as necessary.

Projected Total System Storage

