



Landscape Drought-Savvy Practices

We understand why water providers have set limits for outdoor water use this summer. This does not mean that consumers have to ignore their landscapes.

Spring is an ideal time to plant. Research from Colorado State University states groundcovers, perennials, shrubs and trees that are for Plant Hardiness Zones 3A to 7A can be successfully planted as soon as the soil can be worked. Practices such as soil amendment and mulching should always be used to further improve plant establishment and long-term health.

Before watering on your allocated day, make sure your landscape actually needs the water. Typically April is a month with a decent amount of natural precipitation, so it's possible that only a small amount of supplemental water will be needed. Before watering, always check soil moisture by inserting a screw driver into the soil. If it inserts easily, that area doesn't need watering. Also be aware that all areas may not need equal amounts of water. Look for dry spots and apply water where needed. This is a perfect time to upgrading your sprinkler system to include more efficient equipment like irrigation timers, rain sensors and efficient nozzles. Rebates are available for many of these items.

Water conservation is the responsibility of every consumer. If 50% of the water used is outdoors, then the other half is used indoors. While outdoor use is the focus during the summer months, indoor conservation should always be practiced.

GreenCO, an umbrella association of landscape architects, landscape and lawn care professionals, nurseries, garden centers, greenhouse growers, sod growers and arborists, works closely with CSU and other professionals on research and current technology and is committed to educating the public on how to successfully have a beautiful landscape and maintain their property values. We're proud that we reduced consumption by 20% in the last drought, and we're ready to help again. GreenCO members are a critical consumer resource in keeping landscapes alive this summer and watering them properly. Find more information at www.greenco.org