

Xeriscaping



Xeriscaping is gardening or landscaping that uses native or adapted plants, and uses water efficiently. This type of gardening often saves up to 60% of water use and saves time and energy as it requires less maintenance (mowing). For more information on xeriscaping, several websites have instructions and resources, including www.prairieurbangarden.ca and www.eartheasy.com.

For More Information:

Town of Whitecourt Communities in Bloom Committee

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www.whitecourt.ca

www.communitiesinbloom.ca

Communities in Bloom is a Canadian program that is committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community participation and provincial and national competitions. If you would like to be a member of the Communities In Bloom Committee, please contact the Town of Whitecourt Community Services Department at 780.778.3637.

WATER CONSERVATION

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

Keeping you informed.

Let's work together
to make Whitecourt bloom!



Water Conservation

By adopting water savvy habits in and around your home, you will save money on your water bill and still have a beautiful lawn and garden.

Here are a few tips to help you conserve water in your everyday life.

Indoor Water Conservation Tips

Low Flow: Purchase a low flow shower head and a low volume toilet. A low flow shower head can save over \$60 per year for a 10-minute daily shower.

Leaking Faucets and Toilet Tanks:

Fix leaky taps and toilets as soon as possible. Add some food colouring into your toilet tank and wait a few minutes to see if the colour enters the toilet bowl.

Washing: Wash only full loads of clothes or dishes. Take showers versus baths. Baths use about 57 to 95 litres of hot water, while a five minute shower uses less than 38 litres.

Drinking Water: Store drinking water in the refrigerator rather than letting the tap run to get a glass of cool water.

Appliances: When purchasing a new appliance, consider buying a dishwasher or a washing machine with water and energy saving options.



Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Lawn Length: Mow your lawn to a length of 7.5 cm (3 inches) to protect the roots from the sun and help retain moisture in the soil. Longer grass can also help to crowd out weeds.

Lawn Care: Avoid overfertilizing your lawn. The application of fertilizers increases the need for water and is a source of water pollution.



Water Wisely: Your lawn needs only 2.5 cm (an inch) of water every week to stay healthy. Use a rain gauge or frisbee to measure how much water your lawn gets..

Watch the Weather: If it has rained 2.5 cm (an inch) this week - don't water.

Watering Times: Water your lawn in the morning when it's cool and there is little or no wind. Waiting until later in the day causes most of your good efforts to evaporate.

Water Features: Avoid installing ornamental water features unless the water is recycled.

Use Mulch Around Trees and Plants: Adding a few inches of bark mulch or compost will increase the ability of the soil to retain moisture.

Water Saving Tools

Garden Hose Nozzle: Some areas of your yard need less water than other areas. Nozzles spray directly and allow more control over how much water gets used.

Soaker Hose: Conventional sprinklers and hoses may be inefficient due to significant amounts of water being lost to runoff and evaporation. Irrigation systems that apply water directly to the soil in a slow and steady flow are more efficient. A soaker hose is permeable and releases drips of water slowly while the water is turned on. It may be attached to the spigot on your house and placed in the areas of the garden that need water.

Sprinkler Timer: A timer can shut off your sprinkler after a specific time, once the lawn has received the 2.5 cm (an inch) of water per week.

Broom: A broom is the best way to clean your driveway or sidewalk between rain showers. Ensure when you water your lawn, that you water the grass - not the sidewalk or street.

Rain Barrel: Collect non-treated rainwater from your downspout and use it to water your lawn and garden.

