



Water Conservation for Lawns and Irrigation Systems

The North Sagamore Water District is asking our residents to help us conserve drinking water during the summer months. New drinking water regulations are requiring water suppliers to work with our customers to reduce the amount of water withdrawn from the ground. One of the largest uses of water is automatic irrigation systems. Below you will find some helpful tips on how to reduce your water usage and save money on your water bill.

- **Only water your lawn.** Periodically inspect your system to make sure you are only watering your yard and not your driveway or the road.
- **Know how often and how long to water.** Irrigating for a short time each and every day is not best for your lawn. Consider watering your lawn 2 days per week but for a slightly longer period of time. Early morning is the best time to water. Never water in the middle of the day as the water will quickly evaporate.
- **Only water when necessary.** You should only water your lawn when it needs it. Most lawns require about 1 inch of water per week. When walking across your lawn and the blades of grass do not spring back up it is time to water. If your lawn is mushy underfoot or has mushrooms you may be over watering and need to cut back. Pay attention to weather forecasts and turn off your irrigation system when rain is predicted.
- **Moisture or rain sensors should be installed on your irrigation system as they will bypass your scheduled watering if the soil is damp enough to maintain a healthy lawn.**
- **Properly mow and maintain your lawn.** It is best to mow your lawn with a sharp blade and at the highest setting on your mower (at least 3 inches) as this will help protect the roots. Mulch mowing is recommended to add free fertilizer to your lawn. Soil can become compacted over the time and not allow proper water penetration to the roots, consider aerating your lawn yearly to avoid this.
- **Be aware of water restrictions.** Periodically the Board of Water Commissioners may implement voluntary water conservation measures and occasionally mandatory water restrictions per state regulations. Information on these actions will be available on our website www.northsagamorewaterdistrict.com, in the Bourne Enterprise, and posted at the Sagamore Beach Post Office.

Voluntary Non-Essential Water Conservation Measures for 2021: The Board of Water Commissioners is asking residents to reduce their outdoor water use to every other day. Odd numbered houses should water on odd numbered days and even numbered houses on even numbered days. Non-essential outdoor watering should be done between the hours of 7:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M.

The North Sagamore Water District has water conservation tools available for free to our residents at our office located at 14 Squanto Road.

Websites with More Information about Water Conservation:

- www.epa.gov/watersense
- www.wateruseitwisely.com
- www.greenscapes.org

Cross Connections: To avoid possible cross contamination in the summer months, never leave your hose submerged in a pool or bucket of water. The District provides backflow prevention devices for outside spigots to our residents. These are also available for free at our office and will help prevent contamination of our water system. All automatic irrigation systems should have an approved backflow prevention device installed and working properly.