

## Signs it's Time to Water When Establishing Lawn

- Your lawn has become a dull green color.
- Footprints remain a long time after it has been walked on.
- It is difficult to push a screwdriver into the soil.



### Bright Idea

Your lawn only needs 1 inch of water a week during the summer. To measure this, try placing a small can such as a tuna or cat food can in your yard. Mark off 1/4 inches on the side of the can.



**Town of Purcellville**

130 East Main Street  
Purcellville, VA 20132

## WATERING YOUR LAWN



**Town of Purcellville**

*Developed by and for use by  
Town of Purcellville  
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## SMART WATERING

**Water**, an essential to all living things, is a limited resource subject to rapidly growing demands. Lawns also require a large amount of water, but it is important to note that 'too much' water can cause damage just like 'too little' water can.

### Smart Watering Tips

- Water only during the cooler hours of the day, between 7:00 pm and 10:00 am to avoid losing up to half of your water to evaporation.
- When watering, allow water to soak down deeply to encourage deep root growth. To prevent runoff, turn off water when puddling occurs and then resume watering after the soil has absorbed the water.
- Automatic sprinklers with timers can ensure that your lawn is watered evenly and prevents the wasting of water when forgetting to turn off the sprinklers. Just



make sure the sprinklers water your lawn and not driveways or the sides of buildings. Also, remember to adjust when rainfall occurs to prevent lawn from receiving too much water.

- Mulch mow and leave the clippings on your lawn. The clippings help retain moisture and the longer grass blades provide shade to the roots.
- Improve water penetration by aerating your lawn.
- Don't fertilize or overseed in the summer, wait until the fall.

### To Establish Sod

- Water sod with about 1 inch of water within 15 minutes of laying.
- Soak completely after placement every day or two for 10-14 days.
- Do not water sod if it is too wet to walk on—water squishes up when stepped on.

### To Establish Seed

- Keep lawn moist for first 3 weeks by a daily light watering. Be careful not to apply too much water

because this will result in poor germination and seedling disease.

- A light mulching with straw will help keep the soil moist.
- Always try to water early in the morning. Avoid evening watering so your lawn does not stay wet all night, encouraging fungus disease.
- As the lawn begins to grow, gradually decrease watering frequency and increase water amount. After 4 to 6 weeks, your new lawn should only require about 1 inch of water total from 1 to 2 waterings a week.



## ONLINE RESOURCES

[www.greenhorizons.net](http://www.greenhorizons.net)  
[www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org)  
[www.turfgrass.org](http://www.turfgrass.org)  
[www.turfgrassod.org](http://www.turfgrassod.org)