

Blue-Green Algae Bloom

As of August 15, the advisories for Beaver Lake and Prior Lake remain in place. We continue to monitor water quality in both lakes. [Details>>](#)



Lawn Care

[CRD Home](#) > [Education & Environment](#) > [Water Conservation](#) > [At Home](#) > [Outdoor Water Use](#) > [Lawn Care](#)

Water Conservation

At Home

[Indoor Water Use](#)

[Outdoor Water Use](#)

[Watering Schedules](#)

[Water Conservation Resources](#)

[Water Conservation Frequently Asked Questions](#)

At Work

Lawn Care

Live green in your yard and garden to help protect the environment and our valuable water resource. With a changing climate and longer dry spells in the summer, our winter water that replenishes the Sooke Lake Reservoir for use over the entire year will need to last longer.

By preparing in the fall, we can have a thriving yard and garden during the dry summer months, which will help make sure there is enough water available to meet demand for drinking water, fire protection and to support fish and ecosystems.

You can help with these tips:

Convert unused lawn to native plant meadows.

Adapted to our Northern Mediterranean climate, [native plants](#) are often pest and disease free with no watering and fertilizer required. Converting a traditional lawn to native plant meadows saves time, money, and water!

Complete fall lawn care.

Every summer, lawn care is a major draw in our water supply, but a healthy lawn needs less water. Practice these fall lawn care tips for a thriving water wise lawn during the dry summer months:

- Remove dead, matted grass by de-thatching.
- Aerate to allow water and nutrients to seep into the soil more easily.
- Apply lime if needed.
- Top dress with compost and overseed drought-tolerant alternative, such as micro clover.
- Adjust your watering to account for rainfall.

Water wisely.

Did you know that deep, infrequent watering encourages strong root systems and healthier plants? After a day of rain, consider skipping water until the following week. Remember the CRD's [Stage 1 Watering Schedule](#) is in effect each year from May 1 through September 30.

If you use a timed/automatic irrigation system please help the CRD reduce the 4 am, 5 am and 6 am peak demand for water. High and sudden demands for water impact the system's ability to maintain adequate flow, pressure, and high water quality standards. Please switch your automatic irrigation system to the new overnight lawn watering allowable time and avoid starting your system at 4 am, 5 am and 6 am. For more information, check out our [watering schedule](#). As well, please schedule your system to start off of the top of the hour, pick a random time instead. Learn more about how to reschedule your irrigation system [here](#).

Winterize your irrigation system.

In the capital region's mild winters, it may not seem necessary to winterize your irrigation system, but even a quick freeze can wreak havoc on irrigation systems and equipment. This fall, make sure to winterize your system to help prevent leaks and damage. [Learn how >>](#)

Follow our [lawn care best practices calendar](#) for a thriving water-wise lawn all year long!

Know When You Mow

Set your mower height to leave five to six centimeters (about two inches) and cut no more than the top third of the grass length. Longer grass encourages stronger, deeper roots, and can help shade the soil to reduce evaporation. Leave grass clippings to decompose ([grasscycling](#)); they act as mini-mulch to reduce evaporation and add nutrients. Keep mower blades sharp to avoid tearing the grass. Don't cut wet grass.

Check out more mowing tips in this [video](#).

Remove Thatch

Aerate Your Lawn

Overseed

Efficient Irrigation

Weed and Soil Maintenance

Lawn Alternatives

Resources

- [Reducing Morning Water Demand \(PDF\)](#)
- [Lawn Care Best Practices Calendar \(PDF\)](#)
- [A Homeowner's Guide to Outdoor Water Use \(PDF\)](#)

Video Resources

- [Water Wise Summer Video](#)
- [Gold is the New Green Video](#)
- [Just Takes 1 Video](#)
- [Cycle and Soak Watering Video](#)
- [Garden with Native Plants Video](#)
- [Irrigation Maintenance Video Series](#)

Learn More

- [Water Wise Gardens](#)
- [Natural Gardening](#)
- [Water Wise Outdoors](#)
- [Efficient Irrigation Systems](#)
- [Rainwater Harvesting](#)



What is the CRD?

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is the regional government for 13 municipalities and three electoral areas on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, serving about 440,000 people. [Read more >>](#)

[» Get Involved](#)

Contact Us

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Territorial Acknowledgement

The CRD conducts its business within the Territories of many First Nations, including but not limited to BO'KE'EN (Pauquachin), M'ALEXEL (Malahat), P'a:chi:da?aht (Pacheedaht), Spune'luxutth' (Penelekut), Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay), Songhees, ST'ÁUTW (Tsawout), T'Sou-ke, WJOLELP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and x'w'sep'səm (Esquimalt), all of whom have a long-standing relationship with the land and waters from time immemorial that continues to this day.

[» Statement of Reconciliation](#)