

Healthy lawn watering practices

Proper watering practices can mean the difference between a healthy, productive lawn and ailing sod with a shallow root system.

Watering Tips

- Your lawn only requires one inch of water once a week. Measure the amount of water by placing a container on the lawn while it is being watered.
- Excessive watering will lead to shallow root growth and weakened grass, as well as increase the incidence of disease and pests.
- Water as needed rather than on a set schedule. The Lake Windermere Project's 2005 Lake-Use Survey results indicated that 67% of respondents water their lawn an average of 2 times per week, where once per week would have sufficed.
- Often rain will provide your lawn with all the water it requires.
- Water in the early morning to reduce the amount of evaporation. Watering during the late evening is not recommended because cooler temperature and sitting water encourage disease.
- Mow high to promote vigorous growth, prevent weeds and discourage pests. Keeping your grass at a height of at least 3 inches will shade out weeds and keep the soil cool and moist.

Cool season grasses go through a natural and protective state of dormancy during hot, dry periods, common to the Columbia Valley. A healthy lawn can survive several weeks in a dormant state, where it may wilt and turn brown, but will green again when regular moisture conditions return.

If you live in Invermere, the District Of Invermere is on a 365-day water restriction. Residents can only water on odd or even days of the month depending on their house number, and are restricted to watering before 10 a.m. and after 5 p.m.

If you live within the RDEK, watering restrictions are in effect during the summer months. Residents wishing to water their lawns and gardens must do so from 6:00am to 10:00am and 7:00pm to 11:00pm. Windermere residents living north of Windermere Creek can water on even numbered days and residents south of Windermere Creek can water on odd numbered days. Timber Ridge and Lakeview Meadows residents living in even numbered homes can water Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, while those in odd numbered homes can water Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, no watering on Fridays.

For more tips on watering contact the Lake Windermere Project at 341-6898, or visit the Project office located in the old District of Invermere office beside the Invermere Community Centre. The Lake Windermere Project is a long-term comprehensive stewardship program dedicated to safeguarding the health of our lake.