

2015

APRIL



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TURF TALK

In cooperation with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and Nevada Landscape Association

➤ Now that spring is here, it's time to get off on the right foot as you turn on your sprinkler system. As we continue into our fourth year of drought, it's even more important to prepare your turf for the summer ahead.

Here are some general guidelines:

- **Your sprinkler run times should be 4-6 minutes, backing off by 2 minutes if there is runoff, or adding 2 minutes if your lawn is still dry after a cycle**
- **Start out with no more than 3 run times per assigned watering day**
- **Check your sprinkler heads to ensure proper operation**
- **Now is the time to root feed by fertilizing your lawn**

Check here monthly for timely landscaping and watering tips.

CONSERVATION GOALS SET FOR 2015:

PLEASE SAVE *at Least* 10%

At its March meeting, the TMWA Board of Directors approved conservation measures for this summer in response to the area's fourth year of drought. A report, which includes a full explanation of how our water system is managed in times of drought, is available online at: tmwa.com/drought-management.

During this spring and summer, all of our customers are being asked to reduce their water use by **at least** 10%. So, please use water responsibly both indoors and on your landscaping.

Why 10%? Our planning and projections show a 10% reduction in water use will allow TMWA to save 5,000 acre feet of water in upstream or underground reserves – that's over 1.6 billion gallons of water (1,600,000,000 gallons). This will help us maintain a healthy reserve water supply for next year, should the drought continue.

Why are we asking for **at least** 10%? Everyone can find a way to conserve 10%. The majority of TMWA customers have always been very diligent about responsible water use and conserving more than 10% might be challenging. On the other hand, some customers are just starting; they may be new to the area or have recently decided to modify their landscaping, and can easily find ways to cut **at least** 10%. In either case, the seriousness of the drought means we all need to do as much as we can.

In the months ahead, we will be suggesting many ways to save, one of which is the introduction of "Turf Talk" in this newsletter. It contains simple tips to help your lawn and landscaping survive through the summer. These tips are offered by our partners at the Nevada Landscape Association and the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, our local landscape experts.

Fortunately, TMWA has planned for these times of drought. The good news is that TMWA's upstream reservoirs (Donner and Independence Lakes) are completely full going into this summer. In addition, this winter and spring we have been injecting as much treated water as possible into our underground aquifers, totaling over 720 million gallons through March. Rest assured that TMWA is well prepared to meet the demands of our water customers through this summer and beyond – with your help by saving **at least** 10%.

PLEASE
USE WATER
RESPONSIBLY
BOTH INDOORS AND ON
YOUR LANDSCAPING

SAVE *at Least* 10%
STARTING NOW!

WATER IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

PREPARING THE AREA FOR DROUGHT CYCLES

Several water infrastructure projects are under way that will improve conjunctive use of our water resources, especially during the ongoing drought.

The North Valleys Integration Project involves construction of about 29,000 feet of water main in the Lemmon Valley area. This will allow the Fish Springs groundwater supply to provide 8,000 acre-feet per year for use within the North Valleys area. This groundwater supply will offset an equal amount of surface water that would otherwise have to be pumped into the North Valleys area. It will also help TMWA to conserve additional upstream drought reserves should the drought continue. The \$17.8 million project is currently under design with construction scheduled to begin late this summer or fall with a completion date of June 1, 2016.

TMWA is also planning to make water system improvements that will deliver up to 1,500 gallons per minute of off-peak water supply for recharging existing groundwater wells in the Arrowcreek, and ultimately the Mount Rose areas. These areas currently rely exclusively on groundwater wells for their water supply, and the continuing drought has severely limited the amount of natural recharge to the local aquifers. This \$2.3 million project is scheduled for construction this summer with a planned completion in November 2015 to allow recharge throughout the off-peak water season. This is the first part of a multi-phase project. Phase two is planned for 2016-2017.

NEED A WATER EXPERT?

TMWA SPEAKERS ARE AVAILABLE

Presentations and speakers are available to local clubs and organizations interested in learning more about local water topics. Our speakers are prepared to address community groups and organizations large and small. Topics include responsible water use, drought planning, water supply, our water system, water quality and many others. If you are interested in booking a speaker, please call the Community Communications Hotline at **(775) 834-8290** or submit a request online at tmwa.com/news/presentation.

TMWA'S FREE WORKSHOP SERIES

TMWA offers a series of free workshops to help residents understand their local water system and prepare their yards for the watering season. Upcoming workshops include: Tree Care on **May 13 at 5:30 p.m.** and Easy Sprinkler Maintenance on **June 3 at 5:30 p.m.** These workshops are held at TMWA's office in Reno. Understanding Your Drinking Water will take place at the Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant on **May 6 at 5:30 p.m.** Please call to reserve your spot at **834-8005** or by emailing conservation@tmwa.com.

WHERE TO CALL

General Inquiries: 834-8080
Emergency Repair: 834-8090
Water Conservation: 834-8005
Water Quality: 834-8118
Water Rights: 834-8029
Ombudsman: 848-0813



Truckee Meadows Water Authority is a not-for-profit, community-owned water utility, overseen by elected officials and citizen appointees from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County.

HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

Standing Advisory Committee
May 5 at 3 p.m.
Understanding Your Drinking Water Workshop
May 6 at 5:30 p.m.
Tree Care Workshop
May 13 at 5:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
May 21 at 10 a.m.



Locations and details on all workshops and meetings are found here: tmwa.com/news/events-calendar