

# Top Tips

- Reduce or eliminate nitrogen fertiliser - Nitrogen overly promotes leaf growth, at the cost of the roots. Plan on fertilising in the fall when top growth slows down and root growth increases. Use a slow-release fertiliser, if possible.
- Avoid herbicides - Most weed killers also reduce the vigor of grass roots.
- Reduce thatch and compaction - Aerify early in the year so moisture and air can reach the roots as easily. Thatch can act like a sponge, and compaction will increase run-off.
- Sharpen the mower blade often - Dull blades will shred grass and greatly increase water loss.
- Mow less or when it's cooler - Grasses lose moisture after every mowing, but less is lost if you mow when the weather is cool.
- Mow as high as possible - Taller grass promotes deep rooting and shades the soil.
- Leave clippings, not clumps - Returning grass clippings will add moisture and nutrients to a lawn, while providing a mulching effect.
- Reduce traffic on the lawn - Try to stay off the grass, especially during the heat of the day.

## When you do irrigate, make sure you use conservation practices:

- Water late at night or early in the morning - taking advantage of cooler temperatures and less evaporative losses to afternoon winds and hot sun.
- Water infrequently and deeply - this encourages roots to go deeper where moisture remains available for longer periods of time.
- Let the grass go dormant naturally by withholding water, except for 1/4-inch every four to six weeks, this will keep the crowns hydrated and ready to green up when moisture becomes available.

## Watering plants:

- Gardens consume an enormous amount of water. A sprinkler can use as much water in an hour as a family of four uses in a day. They can actually damage your plants. Choose trickle systems, which can work from a water butt without mains pressure and avoid the heat of the day.
- Rainwater is better for plants anyway. Collect it from your roof with a rainwater diverter and water butt.

## For further advice on the drought, contact:

**The Met Office:** 0870 900 0100

Email: [enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk)

**DEFRA:** 08459 33 55 77

Email: [helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

**Environment Agency:** 08708 506 506

Email: [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### Visit:

[www.beatthedrought.com](http://www.beatthedrought.com)

[www.water.org.uk](http://www.water.org.uk)

### Water Authorities:

Southern Water: 0845 278 0845

Scottish Water: 0845 601 8855

Yorkshire Water: 08451 24 24 24

Water Direct: 0845 3451725

South Staffordshire Water: 01922 638282

Severn Trent Water: 0121 722 4000

Thames Water: 0845 9200800

Sutton & East Surrey Water Plc: 01737 772000

Anglian Water Services Ltd: 0845 7919155



## Wanting to improve your water usage?

Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager for BIGGA, will be holding a two day workshop during Harrogate week entitled: Water usage on the golf course. In addition to this, a 1 day Drainage Workshop and a seminar on Water usage in amenity turf, will also be held.

For further details check out our website: [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk) or contact Sami Collins at [sami@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sami@bigga.co.uk)

## Help is at Hand

McPherson Ltd, a large tanker haulage company based in Scotland and northern England, has the facility to supply "non-drinking" water, to organisations.

Golf clubs that are affected by water restrictions can use their fleet to transport water from Scotland or more local sources, such as the Oxted spring water supply in Surrey. The company can deliver into customer storage tanks or leave their tankers on site, to swap over when required.

- 22,000 litre tanker = 10p per litre
- 28,000 tanker = 7p per litre

The above prices are estimates based on transporting water from north Scotland to south London.

Contact Graham Dixon, Contract Manager, McPherson Ltd, on: 0161 886 3540 or email: [gdixon@abn.co.uk](mailto:gdixon@abn.co.uk)