

SMART IRRIGATION AND LANDSCAPING



NEW JERSEY
AMERICAN WATER



Despite the fact that New Jersey receives ample rainfall, there is considerable demand on the state's water resources. With a high population density and increasing water use, the need to conserve potable water outdoors benefits everyone.

Help preserve the water supply through smart landscaping

Monmouth and Ocean Counties are blessed with steady growth, but are essentially using the same water supply that was in place decades ago. **We simply need more water. But getting more water is not simple.**

Until a long-term solution is in place, you can help conserve the water supply through smart irrigation and landscaping practices.

Luckily, there are many ways homeowners can decrease their outdoor water use. Existing landscape plants can be replaced with drought-tolerant alternatives; irrigation systems can utilize smart irrigation technology to irrigate only when soils are dry; and stone and mulch can be used for attractive and water conserving landscape features.

PLANNING YOUR PLANTING

It's as easy as
1 - 2 - 3

1 Test the land

Evaluate the conditions of your site in order to determine the most compatible plants.

2 Choose drought-tolerant plants

This will decrease the amount of water used to sustain them.

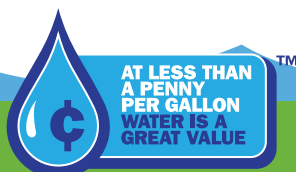
3 Use native plants

Plants native to the local conditions already have the benefit of being able to thrive within them. Native plants may also require less maintenance due to their natural affinity to the local conditions.



Monarda punctata (spotted beebalm)
Native to New Jersey

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WE CARE ABOUT WATER. IT'S WHAT WE DO.®

Smart Irrigation Practices

- Create an odd/even watering schedule with odd number addresses watering on odd days, even number addresses on even days.
- Water lawn and outdoor plants after sunset and before dawn; never during the heat of the day. There is generally less evaporation and an overall more efficient application of water.
- Use mulch around plants. This can help add organic matter to the soil and reduce the amount of water needed.
- Collect and store rainwater in a rain barrels and use it to water your outdoor plants.
- Look for irrigation system controllers with WaterSense labels. These provide the necessary water for healthy plant growth without overwatering. Weather-based irrigation controllers, for example, use local weather data to determine when and how much to water. Irrigation products that bear the WaterSense label have been independently certified to meet EPA's criteria for water efficiency and high performance.
- Consider the use of a drip irrigation system to ensure that water is getting to where the landscape plants need it most; the soil.



- Be sure to have the lawn irrigation heads set so you're watering the lawn/garden; not paved surfaces.
- Have your irrigation system checked by a Licensed Irrigation Professional. Learn more at www.IANJ.com.

Water-Wise Lawn Maintenance

- Water lawns (and outdoor plants) less frequently (2-3 times per week) for no more than 45 minutes per zone. This allows the soil to absorb the water and enables roots to grow more deeply, which encourages drought tolerance.
- Most lawn species in New Jersey have a mowing height of around 2.5 to 3 inches. Mowing lower than 2 inches could result in the grass being less drought and heat tolerant. And, there is a higher chance of insect and disease damage.
- Mow frequently enough so that you do not remove more than one third of the grass height in a single mowing. This allows for the appropriate amount of grass clippings on the lawn, which provides recycled nutrients and organic matter for the soil.

Learn more

About smart irrigation practices: Contact Rutgers Cooperative Extension for home, lawn and garden at 732-398-5220

About your water supply: Contact New Jersey American Water at 800-565-7292

Online resources

- **Rutgers Cooperative Extension & Research**
njaes.rutgers.edu
- **Irrigation Association of New Jersey**
ianj.com
- **Greenscapes**
greenscapes.org
- **New Jersey American Water**
newjerseyamwater.com
- **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**
wildflower.org
(origin of flower pictures)

Does your lawn need more water?

To check if your lawn needs water, simply step on the lawn; if the grass springs back, then the lawn doesn't need watering.