

Let it grow.

Adjust the height of your lawnmower to cut your grass higher. This helps protect roots from heat stress and reduces the loss of moisture to evaporation.

Stay true to your roots.

Promote deep root growth with proper watering, aerating, fertilization, grass-clipping control, and attention to lawn height. A lawn with deep roots requires less water and is more resistant to drought and disease.

Sidewalks don't need water.

Avoid planting turf in areas that are difficult to irrigate properly, such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.

Plug away.

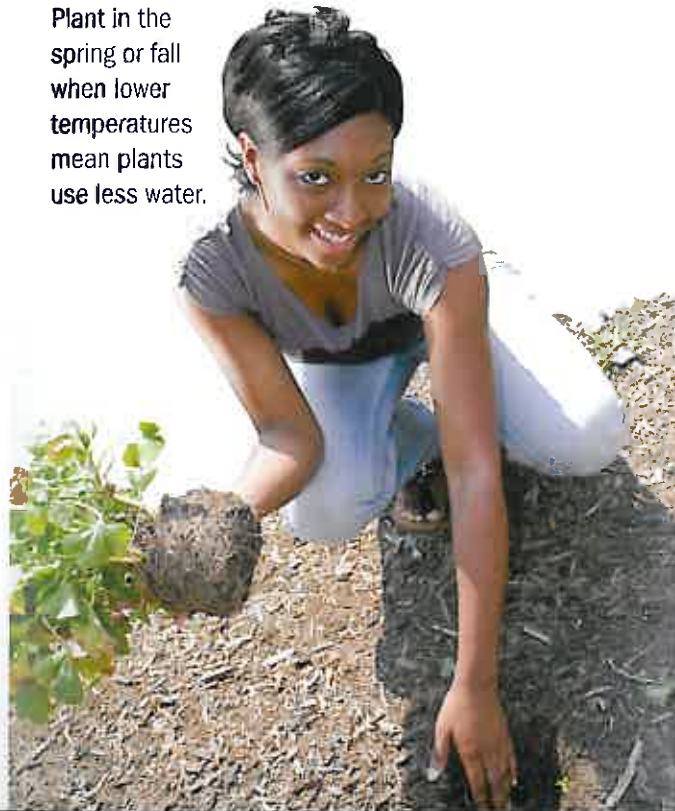
Aerate clay soils at least once a year to help the soil absorb and retain moisture, which helps your plants.

Make the beds.

Add a 2- to 3-inch layer of mulch around flowers, shrubs and trees to help the soil retain moisture, discourage the growth of weeds, and provide essential nutrients.

Remember, April showers bring May flowers.

Plant in the spring or fall when lower temperatures mean plants use less water.



Think small.

When choosing plants, keep in mind that younger, smaller ones require less water to become established.



Don't water in the rain.

Consider installing a rainfall or soil moisture sensor for your automatic sprinkler system. Rainfall sensors stop watering in the rain and moisture sensors monitor the soil to determine when and how much water is needed.

Soak, don't spray.

Install drip-irrigation or soaker hoses for more efficient watering in planting beds and beneath shrubs and trees.

Do it the hard way.

Use a broom or rake (not the hose) to remove debris from driveways and walkways. It saves water and it's good exercise.



No cannonballs!



If you have a pool, keep the water level low to minimize loss from splashing. Use a cover to slow evaporation. An average-sized pool can lose about 1,000 gallons (3,785 liters) of water per month if left uncovered.

Make it shine.

Use a bucket of soapy water and a hose with a shutoff nozzle to wash your car. Better yet, wash your car at a commercial car wash that recycles water.



Conserve water naturally.

Select plants that are native to your region and can thrive with little or no extra watering. Your local nursery can help you identify and select drought-tolerant plants.

Keep it cool.

Water your lawn and landscape plants early in the morning when the sun's rays aren't working to evaporate your water.

