



**Maintain healthy landscapes,
save water, save time and save money
with *waterSmart's* tips:**

2008

Water efficiently.

- Over-watering is wasteful, and it can harm plants.
- **Target water to plants that show signs of moisture stress. They will turn a gray-green color or wilt when they need water.**
- Water the root zone of the plant instead of the foliage. This saves water and reduces foliar diseases.
- Water at night or early morning to avoid losing water to evaporation.
- Water Deeply! Light, frequent watering causes shallow rooting and increases the need for water.
- Use drip irrigation and micro-sprays when possible. They use 30% to 50% less water than sprinklers.
- In-ground system users should have a regular system audit done by a professional who will:
 - ❑ Inspect for leaks and other problems
 - ❑ Recommend new water-saving equipment
- Use the latest technologies
 - ❑ Rain sensors
 - ❑ Soil moisture sensors
 - ❑ Evapotranspiration (ET) controllers
 - ❑ New efficient rotors and spray heads.

Put the “right” plants in the “right” places.

- Select plants carefully. Read the plant tag. It tells you the amount of sunlight, water, and soil conditions the plant need to thrive.
- Plants that require partial shade do best on eastern exposures where they are shaded from the hot afternoon sun.
- Consider the slope and drainage patterns of the site. Plant moisture-loving plants at the base of slopes where they can take advantage of natural drainage.
- Group plants in the landscape according to their water need (high, medium, or low). This will result in more efficient irrigation.

Add organic matter to the soil.

- Organic matter, such as compost, improves the water and nutrient-holding capacity of the soil.
- It adds valuable micro-organisms that aid in nutrient uptake by plants.
- It reduces soil erosion.
- It filters and buffers potential pollutants.
- For best results, apply 3 inches of organic matter to the soil surface and incorporate it to a 12-inch depth.
- 1 cu. yd. / 100 sq. ft. = 3 in. on soil surface.
- 1 cu. yd. = 27 cu. ft. = Nine 3 cu. ft. bags or 14 – 2 cu. ft. bags / 100 sq. ft.
- Add organic matter uniformly across the planting area

Mulch!

- Mulch holds moisture in the soil
- Apply pine straw, shredded hardwood or bark mulch 3 inches deep
- 2 bales of pine straw cover approximately 100 sq. ft.
- 14 – 2 cubic feet bags of mulch cover 100 sq. ft.
- Apply mulch under the entire canopy of the plant, if possible.

Harvest water from alternative sources and use it to irrigate plants.

- Collect water in rain barrels or cisterns
 - For each inch of rainfall, 6 gallons of water can be harvested per square foot of roof area.
- Air-conditioner condensate and dehumidifiers are other sources for irrigation water.

Know the rules.

- Contact your local water utility to find out about outdoor water use restrictions in your area

For more information on ways to help conserve water, visit
www.ConserveWaterGeorgia.net
or contact your local UGA Cooperative Extension office at
1-800-ASK-UGA1.