

# LAWN & GARDEN TIPS

## Water, Water Everywhere And None Of It Wasted

(NAPSA)—Keeping the planet and your garden green may be easier if you take advantage of the latest gardening tools.

For example, there are ways to keep lawns green and conserve water. With a correctly designed, installed and maintained irrigation system, you can minimize the amount of water you use to water your lawn and still keep that lawn looking healthy.

Here are some tips on the intelligent use of water for gardening from Rain Bird Corporation, a leader in the irrigation industry:

- Avoid over-watering lawns and gardens. The greatest waste of water comes from applying too much too often. Instead of watering for 20 minutes straight, water four times for five minutes each session. This allows water to soak in while minimizing runoff.

- Watering in the evening isn't a good idea because leaf surfaces can remain wet overnight—inviting fungal diseases.

Try to water between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. when the sun is low, winds are calm and temperatures are cool. Use a low-angle nozzle in areas where wind is a factor.

- Divide your yard and landscaping into separate irrigation zones so grass can be watered separately and more often than groundcovers, shrubs and trees.

- Trim grass at a higher mower setting to shade roots from sunlight and encourage deeper roots.

- If you have an underground sprinkler system, make sure the sprinkler heads are adjusted prop-



**To save water, adjust your irrigation system as the seasons and weather change.**

erly to avoid watering sidewalks and driveways.

A properly adjusted sprinkler head should spray large droplets of water instead of a fog of fine mist, which is more susceptible to evaporation and wind drift.

- Consider direct application of water to roots using low volume “drip” emitters.

By applying water slowly to soil, drip irrigation is by far the most efficient way to water. The water flows through emitters, bubblers or spray heads placed at each plant.

- Mulch, a layer of non-living material covering the soil surface around plants, conserves water by significantly reducing moisture evaporation from the soil.

For more watering tips or information on water-saving irrigation products, visit [www.rainbird.com](http://www.rainbird.com) or contact a Rain Bird retailer.