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them there for the entire season. They can be buried under mulch, if necessary. Soaker hoses do not wet the foliage of plants, which can reduce disease problems in the landscape, and are over 70% more efficient than overhead-type irrigation systems.

- ✓ **Drip irrigation systems place small amounts of water near the roots of plants over a long time period.**

Large-scale drip irrigation systems are best installed by a licensed professional. Homeowners can install drip systems, sold as kits, for vegetable gardens, flowerbeds, small ornamental gardens and container plantings. Drip systems do not wet the foliage of plants, which can reduce disease problems in the landscape, and are over 70% more efficient than overhead-type irrigation systems.

- ✓ **Watering cans are ideal when you are watering small areas or a few pots and are near a water source.**
- ✓ **Timers conserve water; add a timer to the faucet to automatically shut off the sprinkler when adequate water has been applied.**
- ✓ **Automatic irrigation systems are enormously popular.**

Consider having a professional design and install the system. Lawns should be on separate zones from your landscaped beds. All too often, systems are improperly designed and used, applying too much water too frequently – and where it's not needed (driveways, walkways and roads.) Unless you are going to be away, set the system on manual. This allows you to control the frequency and rate of water being applied. You will have a healthier lawn, conserve water and reduce your water bills.

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Shopping list:

- Hoses
- Soaker hoses
- Sprinklers
- Watering cans

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Watering the Right Way

Watering Techniques for the Lawn and Garden



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Watering Lawns and Gardens

Lawns and landscape plants need moisture to survive and flourish. While the water needs of plants vary by species, there are watering techniques common to most plants.



Watering Facts

- ✓ **Too much vs. too little water:**
Either can be harmful to plants.

It's best to water just before the plant really needs it. How much water do you apply? Set out a few shallow containers (tuna fish cans work great for this) on the lawn. Run the sprinkler for one hour; measure the amount of water in the can. If you collected a half-inch of water, it will take 2–3 hours to apply the needed amount. As a general rule and if rainfall has not been adequate, follow these calculations:

<u>Lawns</u>	<u>Established Trees/Shrubs</u>	<u>Vegetable and Flower Gardens</u>
1–1½" water per week	1–1½" water every 14 days	1–1½" water per week

Note: Consider natural rainfall in your calculations, too.

- ✓ **Water plants infrequently and deeply.**

This means applying all needed water in one watering, if possible. In other words, water no more than once or twice a week. This encourages a deeper root system, which is healthier for plants. Frequent sprinklings

encourage shallow roots that struggle during stressful periods of drought or harsh winters.

- ✓ **Whenever possible, water early in the day.**

Why? Several reasons: Nassau County forbids watering between 10 am and 4 pm and has an odd-even system depending on your house number (even-numbered houses can water on the even-numbered days of the month). Because of evaporation, you will waste water if you water too frequently or if you water during the heat of the day. Watering early in the day encourages foliage to dry before evening, avoiding the possibility of disease with certain plants like lilac and turf grasses.

- ✓ **Soil type plays a role in drainage and water absorption.**

Sandy soils generally do not retain soil moisture; they drain too readily (think of the sand at the beach). Clay soils have a tendency to retain too much soil moisture (soil that puddles hours after a rain). Loamy soil is ideal; it allows for needed water retention and soil oxygen as well as good drainage.

- ✓ **Mulching helps with water conservation.**

Mulching helps to stabilize soil temperatures, reduces weeds that rob the soil of moisture, provides aesthetic value to the landscape and conserves moisture. **A word to the wise:** 2 to 3" of organic mulch is all that's needed. Avoid piling on the mulch, especially around the trunk or stems of plants. Stay a few inches away from the bark. By watering properly and using mulch, you protect your investments in your lawn and garden plants, prevent insect and disease problems and can accomplish this all within the legal limits of Nassau County's water restrictions.

Watering Equipment and Methods

- ✓ **Sprinklers are an easy way to provide overhead watering for lawns and landscape plants.**

There are many sprinklers to choose from (oscillating, pulsating). Place and adjust sprinklers to target lawns, flower and shrub beds and avoid wasting water on walks and driveways. Here are some features worth considering:

- Select a sprinkler that can be adjusted; this will allow you to water only the area that needs it.
- Avoid misting; the larger the water droplet, the less evaporation – another way that you can help to conserve water

- ✓ **Soaker hoses put water where the plant needs it – at the root system.**

Soaker hoses emit water from holes in the hose. Place them in the garden and leave

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