If you wouldn't drink it, don't dump it!

August 2003

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Water Watch

Water Conservation Efforts

In the calendar year 2002, the citizens of Orem were able to use 17% (1,565,608,345 gallons) less water than during 2001.

For the first six months of this year the city has used 15% (524,910,519 gallons) less water than we did last year, and 26% (1,033,203,759) less water in comparison to the first six months of 2001.

As you can see by these numbers, the good citizens of Orem are very conscientious of the amount of water they are using. As water suppliers, we want to thank all those who are working hard to use water wisely and for your voluntary conservation efforts.

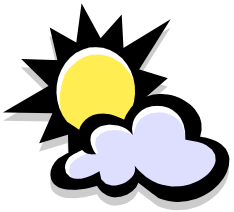
Here in the City of Orem, nearly 80% of the water consumption is used outdoors. It is estimated that 50% of water used is wasted, due to inefficient watering techniques. Poorly designed irrigation systems, watering on windy days, during rainstorms, during the heat of the day, washing driveways and patios, over-spraying sidewalks and roadways and even cooling down the kids are typical ways to waste our precious water supply.

This year our motto has been, **"Use What You Need, But Need What You Use . . . BE WATER WISE!"**

Here are a few tips that will help us use our water more efficiently.

Outdoor Use

- Do not water your lawn during the day, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.. Water during the cooler hours to reduce evaporation.



- Adjust your watering schedule as the weather changes to avoid over watering and water unnecessary use.
- Check around your yard periodically for leaks and clogged, broken or malfunctioning sprinkler heads.

- Aerate your lawn annually to increase water penetration to the roots.
- Place a layer of mulch around trees, shrubs and flowerbeds. Mulch will slow evaporation, lower soil temperature and inhibit weed growth.
- Raise the setting of your mower. 2 ½" to 4" is the recommended height. This will shade and cool the soil temperature. Leave a layer of clippings every few cuttings to mulch and feed the lawn. Keep your mower blade sharp.

- Use a shut-off nozzle on the hose when you wash your car.
- Clean your driveway, patio and sidewalks with a broom instead of a hose, water only things that grow.

Indoor Use

- Check for leaks around the house, including dripping faucets and toilets that continue running.
- Consider installing water efficient plumbing fixtures.
- Don't leave the water running when brushing your teeth, shaving or while preparing and cleaning up meals.
- Continually think about water and ways you and your family can manage it better. You will benefit from savings year round.

(Continued on back)

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We're on the Web!
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(Continued from front)

We can all feel comforted in knowing that Orem, has an adequate water supply for the coming months. Remember . . . we have an adequate supply, not an endless supply!

As we all work together in exercising wise water use practices, it will help insure an adequate supply for the coming years. Preventing water waste is in everyone's best interest.

As water suppliers, we want waste prevention to be on your mind and we hope you will be "**WATER SMART**."

Pesticide Use—Part 1

Pesticides are chemicals used to kill or repel pests. Pesticides include herbicides (Which kill plants), insecticides (which kill insects) and fungicides (which kill fungi).

The pesticides used in a yard are poisons and may pose a health threat to the person applying them if not handled carefully. They also pose a threat to animals, plants, and insects beyond the intended pests. Honeybees are an example of non-target organisms. They are very susceptible to many household pesticides such as carbaryl (sevin) and chlorpyrifos. Other non-targets include ladybird beetles, which are natural biological pest controls, and fish, which can suffer direct poisoning from the household insecticides, permethrin, resmethrin, pyrethrin, and rotenone washed into a stream or lake.

Until recently, groundwater was thought to be immune from the many chemicals used on lawns and gardens. However, contamination may occur when polluted surface water moves through the soil to the water table.

Integrated Pest Management

When we see weeds or insects invading our favorite plants, our first response is often to apply a pesticide. Some people even apply a pesticide to prevent invasions by pests. Both of these automatic responses lead to unnecessary pesticide use. A better approach is Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Cultural Control

Cultural pest control methods attempt to create optimal growing conditions for plans and unfavorable conditions for pests. Methods include:

For Gardens

- Select disease-resistant varieties of plants.
- Plant varieties adapted to the geographic and soil conditions.
- Maintain a rich, fertile soil, with the proper pH for the plants being grown.
- Rotate plants to disrupt the life cycle of pests (this is called crop rotation).
- Plant and harvest early to promote healthier, stronger plants and avoid peak insect populations.
- Remove pest-infected plant residue in the fall.
- Plant a wide variety of crops to reduce potential pest problems.
- Evaluate the availability of sunlight and water. Most garden plants need plenty of each to help control pest problems.

For Lawns

Proper mowing heights are important. Set the mower to cut a 2-1/2 inches. Mow often, each time the grass reaches 4 inches. (It's important not to cut more than one-third of the height.) On troublesome spots, remember that improper light, moisture or soil conditions discourage good turf. Use of shade-tolerant grasses, bringing in topsoil, or switching to alternative ground covers may be the answer.

Biological Control

Numerous organisms feed upon or infect insect pests. These biological controls frequently prevent the insect pollution from reaching damaging levels. Three types of natural enemies are:

- Predators - Such as ladybird beetles, ground beetles and birds that consume many pests in their lifetime.
- Parasites - such as the trichogamma wasp, which will generally consume one individual insect pest during its own lifetime.
- Pathogens - such as fungi, bacteria, and viruses which infect many insect pests simultaneously.

Minimizing the use of pesticides on lawns and gardens allows these natural enemies to thrive, helping to keep pest populations in control.

To be continued in the next issue of WaterWatch…

Source: *Yard Care And The Environment* by the West Valley City Storm Water Utility