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

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WaterWatch

OREM

Remember to Clean Up After Pets

Many people enjoy having pets and caring for them. But have you thought about the impact pets may have on water quality?

In reality, pet waste can be a major polluter. Studies in Seattle have shown pet waste to be the main pollutant in one of its main waterways.

So what problems can occur when pet owners allow pet waste to be washed into storm water? There are two pollutants that come from pet waste that can cause problems for water quality: nutrients and bacteria.

Nutrients from pet waste cause a process known as eutrophication. This leads to an increase in weed and algae growth in lakes and streams. The weeds and green water can make swimming, boating and fishing difficult or undesirable.

This greening of the water can block sunlight affecting bottom-rooted plants. When nutrient levels lessen, the weeds and algae decompose using oxygen and possibly causing fish kills.

Other sources of nutrient pollution

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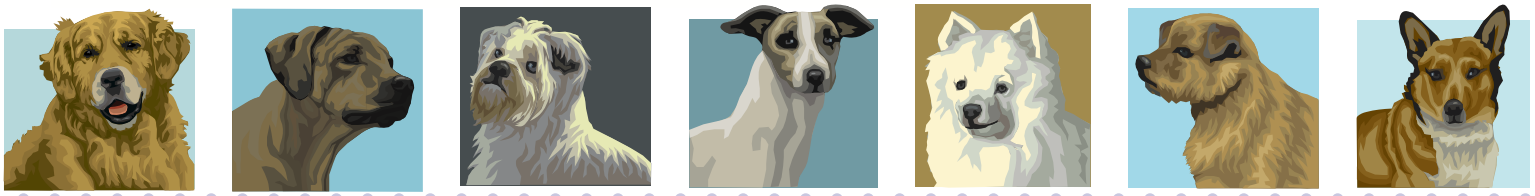

How much do you need to water?

Do you really know how much water your lawn needs?

There are many variables that fit into the equation of how much water you need? What plants grow in your yard? What sprinklers do you have? What is your soil type? All of these things can make a difference.

Plants need enough water to provide adequate moisture to roots without promoting rot or without drowning the plant. The first thing to determine is how well your soil drains. To find this out, dig a one foot deep hole in the yard and fill it with water. If it drains in one to two hours you have sandy soil. Sandy soil can be watered every three to four days during the middle of the summer. If it takes three to four hours, it means you have some clay but it drains well. If the water is still there after eight hours, you have clay soil. Clay-type soils can go five to six days between watering.

You can also determine when to water by digging before watering. If the soil feels dry at a depth of four inches, it is probably time to water again.

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Pet Waste

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include leaves and grass clippings as well as excess fertilizers.

Bacteria from pet wastes can cause a variety of symptoms from nausea to diarrhea to rash and even death in people with weakened immune systems.

City ordinance requires pet owners to clean up after pets. Violations can result in fines.

So how can a pet owner take care of waste responsibly? There are a couple of options for pet waste disposal.

The first option is to bag the pet waste and throw it away in the garbage. This is a legal way to dispose of pet waste.

Another suggestion is to bury the waste. It is suggested that you dig a hole at least one foot deep. You can then place three to four inches of waste in the hole and cover it with at least eight inches of soil.

Keep buried waste away from vegetable gardens and water sources. Don't add pet waste to compost. It will not get hot enough to kill pathogens in pet waste.

Flushing pet waste down the toilet is against City Code.

We should remember that pets don't pollute, people do. Please clean up after your pets.

Sources

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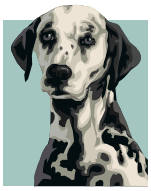


So how long should the water run? The answer is, until the soil is damp to a depth of eight inches. You can make sure this happens by sticking a screwdriver into the soil until the soil resists. This is where it is dry. Measure how deep the screwdriver went in. If it made it eight inches or more, you have watered enough.

Some deeper rooted trees and shrubs may need additional water from a slow dripping hose.

You can receive additional assistance in your quest for lower water bills and a healthy lawn by contacting Slow the Flow, Save H2O. They provide a Water Check service that will determine your soil type, inform you of sprinkler problems, check your water pressure, measure precipitation rate, check even-ness of watering and give you a customized watering schedule. Call 623-6337 to schedule an appointment.

In addition, you can get many landscaping ideas by visiting the Central Utah Gardens located at 355 W University Parkway in Orem. It is free and open to the public Monday through Saturday from 8 AM to 8 PM.

Source: http://extension.usu.edu/files/gardpubs/water2.htm