

# Adjust your Water Behaviour to the Season

## AUTUMN

### NOVEMBER

#### Keeping the garden

- Increase the ability of the soil to absorb water. If your land is prone to run-off water, you can use a fine spray. A fine spray lowers the volume of water applied to the soil, causing less damage to the soil surface and allowing the water to percolate to the plant root zone.
- Use a good mulch. Mulches prevent the soil from drying up, help control weed growth and some types of mulch provide the plants with important nutrients through the soil.
- If you don't have a compost heap, start one with lawn clippings, leaves, garden rubbish and food scraps. As you keep adding, the mulch that is formed can be used to save most of the water lost by evaporation.

### OCTOBER

#### Watering practices

- Design a "watering schedule" according to the season.
- Water the garden early in the morning or evening to reduce water loss through evaporation.
- Apply only the amount of water that can be readily absorbed by the soil.
- Use a drip watering system. Drip watering provides the right amount of water to the soil. It delivers water at a rate the soil can absorb and the system can be designed to suit any size or shape of garden.
- A good soaking a couple of times a week is more beneficial than a daily sprinkling. It allows the soil to dry out between waterings, reducing the risk of fungal infections.

### SEPTEMBER

#### Create a water-friendly garden

- Identify water-friendly plants: Confront an expert to find out what type of plants suit your area. Growing plants that "sui" the area-native plants need 50% less water than normally used to care for "unsuitable" plants. Water friendly-plants have the following features in common: small, hairy leaves, with light colours tough surface, protected by pores deep root systems internal water sources
- Plant the seeds during autumn (or spring) when plants need less water.
- Plant the strongest shrubs on the exposed side of your garden, thus providing your garden with a very effective windbreak.
- Use on driveways and walkways materials, which allow water to percolate through them rather than run off into the water drain.

## SUMMER

### AUGUST

#### If you have a swimming pool

- Cover the pool when it is not in use, thus you can save water from evaporation.
- Lower the pool water level to reduce the amount of water splashed out.
- If you empty your pool in winter, you can use this amount of water e.g. for watering your garden. You could also, clean the pool using modern technology without the need to empty it.

### JULY

#### During your holidays

- Make an effort not to use more water than you usually use in your house.
- Choose taking a shower instead of a bath.
- Try to save water whenever you take a shower.
- Use fewer towels and linens.
- Take your dirty clothes back home with you- do not wash them in your room or via the hotel-laundry.
- If you notice a leaking tap, report it to your host.
- Prefer water-sports and activities, which have low water demands and/or do not pollute the aquatic environment.
- Give feedback to tour operators, guides, travel agents, lodge owners involved in your travel experience.

### JUNE

#### Planning your holidays

- Respond favourably and support water awareness programs and campaigns for tourists and visitors.
- Make an informed and low-impact environmental travel choice.
- Choose your journey-destination based on ecological criteria. Choose places that are not overcrowded, overdeveloped or extremely water stressed.
- Prefer responsible tour operators and guides who are aware of environmental impacts.
- Choose environmentally-friendly accommodations, such as hotels providing water-saving devices, facilities for water recycling, waste water treatment and/or desalination plants.

## WINTER

### DECEMBER

#### Saving water in the kitchen

- Wash the dishes filling the sink or a dishpan. Keeping the tap on and letting the water run, while washing the dishes, spends about 10L of water per minute.
- Run the dishwasher only when it is full.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher.
- Wash your fruits and vegetables in a dishpan or sink half filled with water instead of keeping the tap on.
- Use only as much water as you need during the cooking.

### JANUARY

#### Saving water in the bathroom

- Turn the tap off while washing hands, brushing teeth, shaving, etc.
- Take short rather than long showers or baths, turning the tap off while soaping.
- Place a brick in the water tank of a single flush toilet to reduce the amount of water used for each flush.
- Consider installing water efficient fixtures such as: low-water use toilets, water efficient taps and low-flow showerheads (modern dual flush toilets use only 3-6L of water per flush while the single flush toilets use 6-11L of water per flush).
- Run the washing machine only when it is full. You can also adjust the water level to suit the size of the wash load.

### FEBRUARY

#### Check & repair all leaks

- Check for leaking taps and leaks in the toilet, regularly. Don't forget checking taps and hoses outside your house (garden, yard).
- Observe the dials on the water meter when you don't use water in the home or garden. If any of the dials move, you may have a leakage.
- You can check for leaks in the toilet by adding a few drops of food colouring in the tank of the toilet. If there is a leak, coloured water will appear before the toilet has been flushed (the leakages from the toilet reservoirs may waste up to hundreds of litres of water a day).
- Fix leaking taps- usually a new tap washer is needed. If the tap still leaks call a plumber.
- Advise children to turn the tap off after each use.
- You should report water leakages (e.g. broken pipes, running hydrants) to the landlord, curator, local authority or water management district.

## SPRING

### MARCH

#### Washing your car

- Wash your car by turning the hose off between rinses.
- Use a bucket instead of a hose.
- Wash your car on the lawn, if possible, to reduce runoff.
- Alternatively, you might consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.

### APRIL

#### Water-friendly potted plants

- Choose soil mixes high in organic matter that increase the capacity of the potted plant's soil to maintain water and nutrients.
- Use the right size of pot to prevent waste of water.
- Use water saving additives such as wetting agents and water saving crystals.
- A good practice of watering potted plants: submerge the pot up to the level of the soil in a bucket of water and wait a few seconds for the bubbles to disappear. This way the plant receives the sufficient amount of water without frequent watering.

### MAY

#### Saving water outside

- Clean the paths in your yard with a broom instead of using the garden hose (you can add the rubbish to the compost heap).
- Collect rainwater in barrels and containers and use it for watering the garden, washing the car or for other uses.
- Reuse the water from your aquarium to water the plants in your garden (waste from fish is a good and inexpensive fertilizer, rich in nitrogen and phosphorus).

