

# WATER CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

## SAVE WATER. SAVE MONEY. HERE'S HOW.

These guidelines were drafted by industry experts, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations of the Wood River Valley to promote efficient water saving techniques. These recommendations use soil, compost, vegetation, mulch and irrigation practices to reduce the strain on water resources and save water users money.

### SOIL AND COMPOST

Use one part compost to three parts soil in new turf areas with a soil depth of 6".

Use one part compost to three parts soil in new shrub and flower beds with a soil depth of 12".

During excavation keep existing soil on site and temporarily fenced to prevent compaction.

Protect and minimize the disturbance of trees and vegetation when excavating.

### MULCH

Mulch beds, tree rings, and exposed soil to a depth of 4-6" to minimize evaporation.

Mulch tree rings from the trunk to the outer drip line.

### VEGETATION

Use native or drought tolerant turf species.

30% of trees and shrubs should be low-water use plants.

### IRRIGATION

Use a backflow preventer if sprinkler system is tied to a potable water source.

To provide complete coverage, sprinklers should be laid so that each area hit with two sprinklers. Recommended overlap is 5-10%.

Limit 5/8" per hour for sprinkler application rates. 1/2" bubblers are not recommended due to their high application rate and poor coverage.

Regulate pressure to 40-45 psi at sprinkler head to ensure uniform distribution rates. 15 psi is recommended for proper operation.

Recommended spray height is 4" pop up for mowed grass and 12" pop up for natural areas.

Use sprinklers with matched precipitation rates so the same amount of water covers each zone.

Stake drip tube to the ground every 24" in a grid pattern to ensure uniform water distribution.

Drip pipe should be 1/2" pressure compensating and have a check valve to prevent drain out.

Dedicate an irrigation zone for pots, barrels, or hanging baskets. Irrigate with 1/4" pressure compensating drip tube no longer than 15' in length with no more than .6 gallons per hour water pressure.

Plant vegetation with similar water needs in the same irrigation zone.

Have separate irrigation zones for sun and shade areas.

Sprinkler controller should be able to adjust irrigation automatically via weather station or soil moisture sensor (Time Domain Transmission recommended). Irrigation and Smart Technologies should be installed to industry and manufacturer standards (including 2-wire systems).

If property has more than 5 feet of elevation change, use check valves to prevent draining out of low heads.

For larger sprinkler systems with a water supply larger than 1-1/2", use a flow meter and master valve controlled from the sprinkler controller. Use HDPE or Ductile Iron fittings, not VC mainline fittings, for mainlines 3" and larger.

