

Ontap

Customer newsletter | October-December 2020

Watering rules in place during daylight savings

Longer, warmer days mean we all need to do the right thing when it comes to water.

From 4 October 2020 to 4 April 2021, new Stage 1 water restrictions will be in place.

Under the rules, you must not use sprinklers or irrigations systems from 10am to 5pm each day. If you need to water during this time, you can use a handheld hose.

"These rules aren't new, but we have now formalised them as Stage 1 water restrictions following a recent community survey," Riverina Water Chairperson Clr Greg Verdon said.



"The results showed only 30 per cent of the community knew they couldn't water during these times.

"From now on, the start of daylight savings should be seen as sign for all residents to start being more mindful of their water usage."

Clr Verdon said the while there will always be wet years and dry years, water is a precious resource that

we should not take for granted.

"Residents in our supply area are fortunate to have reliable water sources, and we have not increased water charges in two years," he said.

"However, we need to value our water and remember to use it wisely."

Lawn and garden advice: Page 2

Residential and domestic water use restrictions from 4 October 2020 to 4 April 2021:

Gardens and lawns

Watering from 10am to 5pm is not allowed, unless you are using a handheld hose.

You must wait until after 5pm before using any other watering methods eg sprinklers, irrigation systems.

Paved areas

You cannot hose down paved areas between 10am and 5pm unless required as a result of an accident, fire, health hazard or other emergency.

Private swimming pools

No restrictions, however, consider using a pool cover and taking other steps to minimise water wastage in the pool

Washing of motor vehicles

No restrictions, however, please minimise water use where possible or wash your car on grass.

Tips, tricks and more | rwcc.nsw.gov.au/savewater

More information on water restrictions | rwcc.nsw.gov.au/restrictions

Water issues?

If you're experiencing issues with water supply or a water related emergency, please call us on **6922 0608** 24 hours a day, seven days a week



Keep your lawn & gardens happy by not over-watering this summer

Giving the lawn a proper drink, less often, will keep your grass healthy.

It encourages deeper root growth and means your grass will be more able to withstand heat stress and dry periods.

Most people overestimate how much water their lawn needs.

Grass is shallow rooted and rarely extends more than 25mm into the soil.

Put more water than this on your soil and it's not helping your lawn or your water bill. Your lawn does not need to be watered again until the soil dries out.

Put a 25mm deep tin (eg can of tuna) out when you are watering

Laid new turf? Apply for an exemption to water restrictions online: rwcc.nsw.gov.au/restrictions

your lawn and stop when the tin is full.

Then watch how long it takes for the water to evaporate from the tin. That's when it is time to water again.

Did you know that your lawn mowing practices can also affect how much water your lawn needs?

The golden rule is never cut your lawn by more than a third of the grass length. Some people like to leave the clippings on the lawn to form a mini-mulch and retain moisture longer.

When it comes to your garden, there's a simple trick that will help you keep your plants happy.

Before you even consider watering, push aside the mulch, stick your finger into the soil and if it is moist below the surface you don't need to water.

Many plants are much tougher than you think and will go for quite long periods without additional watering. This also has the effect



of training your plants to be more drought tolerant.

Less frequent watering forces roots down to find water, making the plants less reliant on surface water and

better able to stand hot, dry days.

Also, check the four-day forecast at the Bureau of Meteorology. If there's rain in the forecast, let the rain do your watering for you.

Online tools to help you save water

Have you wondered how much water an average household of your size should use? Visit rwcc.nsw.gov.au/calculator and find out.

You can also download a home water audit and learn where you can be saving water in your home and garden.

If you're a green thumb, try our online plant finder. Visit rwcc.nsw.gov.au/plantfinder for help picking the perfect plant, including drought tolerant species and more.

Did you know? About 50% of water use in summer is just from watering lawns

Improving our network right across the southern Riverina



Crews have been working across our 15,000 square kilometre supply area to undertake maintenance during the cooler months.

Improvements at Forest Hill in Wagga Wagga (pictured) are complete, with a 40-year-old water main replaced with new ductile iron pipework that will last

for many decades to come.

Meanwhile, an extension of our network in Lockhart Shire is underway, with residents on Bidgeemia Road, Bidgeemia, and Vincents Road, The Rock, being able to connect to our service. Maintenance has also been undertaken at the Henty balance tank, which helps stabilise water pressure for customers to the south.

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