

May 10, 2007

This letter is a copy of the letter sent out in 2003.

To Cedar Ridge Distribution Water Users:

This letter is being issued to address (hopefully) various concerns of water usage; to answer various questions, and to set certain guidelines as to when we can water to best use our resources fairly among all the water users.

First of all, I would like to explain some basic information about our system. The storage tank up on the hill holds 150,000 gallons of water. The control system is set up to turn the pump on when the tank level drops below 120,000 gallons and then turn the pump off when the tank is full. (So as not to waste water by overfilling the tank. The tank has an outlet to discharge extra water when it is full if the pump were to continue to run.) The lights at the pump house turn on when the tank drops below 105,000 gallons. This is to let all of us know that the water usage is greater than the amount of water that is being pumped. The pumps are not a "variable type." They are either on or off. [At present, the upper pump is shut off because the old well at the pump house is dry. The lower pump is the only one we have running. The upper well has been dry since about June 15th.] The lower pump is a 25 HP Submersible. It is located south of Troy and Jennifer Arbon's house and east of JR and Judy Adams' house. The lower pump is about 380' down a 16" diameter well casing. So far, the new well has ample water. However, the pump can only deliver a set amount of water regardless of how much water is in the well. There are various factors that affect the delivery of water from the lower pump, but generally it is able to pump about 180 gallons per minute. State regulation requires 1600 gallons per hookup of storage. There are 31 hookups. $1600 \times 31 = 49,600$ gallons are needed for storage. The state now requires about 105,000 gallons of water storage for fire fighting ability in an area of our size. This puts us as a community at the minimum if all 31 hookups were served by our fire hydrants. Since only 25 hookups are served, we are in compliance. The problem, however, is that when the light is on at the pump house, we are below adequate levels for fire protection. Thus, the lights serve as a warning for several problems: the usage is more than delivery; the reserve for fire fighting is below adequate, and/or there is a problem with the pump or with pipes leaking.

Second, to help even out the use of the water supply, I feel that we need to establish certain guidelines and policies. Sequence of watering shall be as follows:

- **Odd number lots (along with Eldon Johnson, Jon Thompson, and Thompson and Son Cabinet) may water outside on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.**
- **Even number lots (along with Riries, and Daryl Anderson) may water outside on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.**
- **Power usage is cheaper on weekends and so I would like to leave Monday as a catch up day. A map of the subdivision should help in determining what lot number you have.**

Timing of watering:

Water managers and Hydrologists have asked water users to water during the cooler part of the day. Hydrologists claim that up to 20% of the water used in the daytime evaporates. This wasted water means that someone is being shorted their fair share of water because of evaporation. **Therefore, I would like lawn watering to occur after 8:00 PM and before 10:00 AM. In addition to the time frame outlined, I would like to have each homeowner to water 1/3 of their lawns in the 8:00 PM to midnight time frame and 2/3 of their lawns in the midnight to 10 AM time frame of the same day. This will allow the usage to be spread out a little more.**

Thirdly, I would like to address some concerns that have been mentioned about water usage. I did some testing at my house on water flows. I used a hose from an outside tap with one common (yellow, round shape) sprinkler. I placed 8 tuna fish cans at various locations to catch the water. In 30 minutes the cans had an average of $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Water managers say that during July, an average lawn (with the heat we were experiencing) would need about 2" of water per week. Therefore, my sprinkler would deliver enough water if the setting was for 1 hour, twice a week. In early June, 30 minutes twice a week would have been sufficient. My front lawn using the sprinkler system, took 45 minutes to place an average of $\frac{1}{2}$ " of water in various tuna fish cans. The front lawn is 3400 sq. ft., and it is watered by one valve. Another test I made was using a hose (without a sprinkler) hooked to a hydrant and a hose that was hooked to the house faucet. The hydrant flow was at 12 gallons/minute. The hose bib on the house ran at 8 gallon/minute. If I were to let the hose from the hydrant run for 1 hour, it would cover an area of 2300 sq. ft. at $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. However, it should be noted that a hose running on our lawns won't spread very far because of the gravel/sand type soil and so flood irrigation doesn't work very well. I should mention that at lower pressures, the volume would drop and at higher pressures, the volume would increase. The pressure at my house is 65 + lbs. The point of these tests, is that each of us should know how much water we are putting on our lawns. If we use more than we need, then someone else gets less than they need. Lets be fair and use what is needed and no more. Also, over watering is harmful to our lawns. Too much water dilutes the nutrients by washing them down into the ground beneath. Proper fertilizing and proper watering go hand in hand for a healthy lawn. Another problem is that of watering our driveways and the county road. We need to adjust our sprinklers so that the water hits the lawn since the roads don't need water. Water on the roads is depriving someone of water for their lawns. Another problem is watering when it is windy. Turn off sprinklers during that time. Also, when we receive rain, we should avoid watering. Mother nature can provide sufficient water for up to 4 days from a single storm. We should also enlist a neighbor to help us when we are gone from home. One or two people should know how to turn off our sprinkler system if the need were to arise while we are out of town. Pipes do break, rains do occur, and it is a shame to see someone's sprinklers running when it is raining, etc. I have included various reports on water conservation as published in our local paper. Please read them and apply the information given.

Finally, we need to remember that the water we waste may be the water our neighbor is shorted. Let's work together to be responsible water users and be friends.

David Z. Thompson, President

Water use fees are due on the first of each month, and past due on the 11th. A late fee of \$5.00 will be assessed beginning September 11, 2003. This rule has been in place for several years but has not been enforced for the past 4-5 years.

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Slow the flow

How to 'Slow the Flow'

Let's Go Outside

- λ Tune up sprinklers regularly. Ask: Is the water distribution even?
- λ Invest in electronic switches and sensors that automatically shut off sprinklers during a rainstorm and will turn on sprinklers when the system senses the soil is too dry.
- λ Avoid puddles.
- λ Periodically adjust automatic timers to coincide with weather changes.
- λ Water things that grow, like grass, plants and trees, not the driveway, the sidewalk or the fence.

How to Put Down Roots

- λ Aerate lawns, then over-seed. Aerate in the spring and fall and follow with seeding mixed for the Intermountain West.
- λ Let the grass grow longer. Train the roots to go deeper. Ideal length: 2 to 3 inches
- λ Leave clippings on the lawn. The clippings are a good source of nitrogen and soil moisture will be improved.
- λ Fertilize in the late fall with a "slow release" product. Over-fertilizing is unhealthy and makes the lawn grow faster, increasing the need to mow.

A Pretty, Great Place

- λ Diversify the landscape so that it is water- and energy-efficient.
- λ Plant low-water-using and drought-resistant trees and plants.
- λ Use mulch around trees and plants. A 3-to 4-inch layer of mulch cools flower beds, inhibits weeds and slows evaporation.
- λ Consider each plant's water needs. Arrange plants with similar needs into zones.

In the Drink

Thu, June 16, 2005

Unnecessary sprinkling adds to water woes

By **MARIE GRIFFIN**
Standard-Examiner staff

Recent rainfall shows weaknesses in local usage patterns

OGDEN -- Since the Wasatch Front recently got as much as 1.6 inches of rainfall, most people should not be watering their lawns for the next couple of days, according to water conservation experts.

Residents should have stopped their sprinkler cycles at the beginning of the storm and should not start them again until their grass needs water, said Tage Flint, general manager of the Weber Basin Water Conservancy.

Lawns need water when they turn a blue-green color or when they fail to bounce back after being stepped on.

People in Weber, Davis, Morgan and Summit counties, which the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District covers, water 30 to 50 percent too much, Flint said.

That's not only during storms.

Through the summer months, residents should only water every third day. In spring and fall, every fourth day.

In a pamphlet on water usage, the conservancy tells people, "Respond to your lawn's needs, not your habit."

Residents should stick screwdrivers in their lawns. If the tool slips into the ground easily, they should cut back on their watering. If it's difficult, their lawns need more water.

If cutting back, homeowners should wean their grass from water, said Molly Waters, state water conservation coordinator. They should gradually move from every day to every other day and so forth.

"Most of our future water supply is going to come from people conserving, not new water projects," she said.

Aside from conservation, however, overwatering damages lawns.

At some point, water replaces oxygen, Waters said. Peaked, yellowish spots -- unless they are crispy -- could be signs of anaerobic, overwatered grass.

If the spots are crispy, residents should water them separately.

"People need to realize that they shouldn't be overwatering their entire lawn for one dry spot," Waters said.

Evaporation is a major culprit of water loss.

Watering between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. may allow for a 15 to 20 percent reduction in evaporation loss. *

"Because our climate is typically dry, this practice won't create mildew or fungus on your lawn unless you water too much," the pamphlet reports.

The conservancy prohibits watering from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Its representatives drive through some areas of the counties and watch for violators, who get a warning the first time. A few residents have had their water temporarily turned off for failing to comply, Flint said.

However, once they are educated about water conservation, some people are willing to change their ways.

There has been a 17 percent decrease in water waste in the past couple of years along the Wasatch Front, Flint said.

Despite the decrease, people need to push for water conservation.

"Our water supplies are pretty much running thin," Flint said.

Utah's urban residents use more water per capita than any other population in the United States, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Watering lawns accounts for 60 to 70 percent of that consumption.

Lawns should be watered separately from plant beds and trees, which require less moisture.

Sprinklers that create a fine mist or fog should have their pressure reduced or nozzles adjusted. Water loss from evaporation or wind drifting should decrease by 20 to 25 percent, according to the conservancy.

For more information, go to www.conservewater.utah.gov. To learn about water patterns in different soil types, contact the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District at (801) 771-1677.