USING WATER WISELY

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Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County
Rutgers Cooperative Extension

• Extension’s mission is to bring research based information to the public
  – Informal education such as publications or this program

• Cooperative Extension includes:
  – 4-H Youth Development
  – Marine - Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture
  – Agriculture and Horticulture, Rutgers Master Gardeners
  – Natural Resources and Water Management
  – Family and Community Health Sciences
  – Nutrition Education
  – Master Gardener Helpline (732-349-1245; from 9am – noon)

http://ocean.njaes.rutgers.edu/
While NJ is a “water-rich” state receiving over 45 inches of rainfall each year:

- New Jersey is also the most densely populated state in the country; over 1,200 people/square mile
- The average New Jersey resident uses 70 gallons of water per day; mostly in the bathroom
- Residents engaging in outdoor watering & irrigation increase their average water use up to 155 gallons per day (April – October)
Drought watch issued for part of South Jersey

MICHELLE BRUNETTI POST Staff Writer  Oct 5, 2016  (0)

Drought Watch Issued for Northern Ocean County

Daniel Nee  September 23, 2015  Featured, Ocean County  3 Comments

INTERACTIVE MAP: NEW JERSEY'S THIRSTY -- WATER USE ON RISE IN GARDEN STATE

COLLEEN O'DEA | AUGUST 14, 2015

Between 2000 and 2010 the total amount of water used by homes, businesses, and the state’s two nuclear plants surged by 40 billion gallons a year

Ocean County Under Drought Watch

Published on Sep 27, 2015 — in Brick/Community/Headline News/Jackson/Joint Base MDL/Lakehurst/Lakewood/Manchester/Toms River —

by Shore News Network

Natural disaster declared in 11 N.J. counties due to drought conditions
1. Keep Your Soil Healthy
2. Select the Right Plants
3. Follow Smart Watering Practices
4. Capture Rainwater
Compaction is the hardening of soil due to excessive wheel or foot traffic on the soil.

Infiltration of water into the ground is reduced or prevented with compacted soils.
Healthy soil allows rain water to soak in and reduces the need for irrigation. Aerate any compacted soil in your yard – aeration will help get water into the ground and down to plant roots.
MULCHING

• Retains soil moisture by reducing evaporation and reducing exposure to wind
• Acts as an insulating layer on top of the soil
• Keeps weeds down and the weeds that do grow are much easier to remove
• Improves soil texture and quality as it mulch breaks down (if it’s bark or otherwise organic material)
• Helps to reduce rain splash and runoff, which can help to prevent erosion in steep areas
2. Select the Right Plants

Should I plant a cactus here?
2. Select the Right Plants

- Choose plants with growing requirements that match the conditions in your yard.
- Native plants are best. Adapted to local conditions
  - rainfall amount
  - hardiness
  - soil type
2. Select the Right Plants

Advantages of Native Plants

• Reduce use of fertilizers or pesticides
• No regular mowing or watering
• Less time intensive
• Less costly
Reduce the Amount of Turfgrass in Yard

• Lawn grass is the most irrigated crop in the U.S.

• Over 85 gal/day of summertime water is used for gardens and lawns
What Native Plants to Use?

2. Select the Right Plants
2. Select the Right Plants

http://www.jerseyyards.org/

Rethink the Lawn and Reduce Your Environmental Impact
Group plants according to watering needs. Otherwise, some can end up being overwatered and others not watered enough.

For example, vegetable gardening

High water needs:

- Onion, pepper, cauliflower, eggplant

Moderate water needs:

- Beans, cantaloupe

Low water needs:

- Spinach, turnip, watermelon, radish
3. Follow Smart Watering Practices

- Water only when needed and water deeply.
- Watering on a strict schedule, without taking need into account, not only wastes water, but can result in unhealthy plants.
- Experience and soil testing are best measures.
3. Follow Smart Watering Practices

- 1” to 1½” per week, including rainfall
- Leafy crops in general needs more water than root crops

To encourage deep rooting, thoroughly water the upper 6 to 8 inches of soil (left). Shallow watering (right) promotes shallow development of roots, resulting in poor growth and increased risk of injury under severe weather conditions.
3. Follow Smart Watering Practices

- Time it right. The best time of day to water is in the early morning hours.
- Avoid watering in the middle of the day when the sun is hottest or during windy conditions.
- Fix irrigation systems and sprinklers to ensure that pavements are not watered.

“No matter how much you water a sidewalk it won’t grow.”
4. Capture Rain Water

Rain Barrels
4. Capture Rain Water

Disconnect your downspout by installing a rain barrel

REduce the amount of runoff entering storm sewers
How Much Water Can you Save?

One rain barrel can save about 1,400 gallons from April through October.
Your landscape plants will love it!
• No salts or chemicals, slightly acidic pH
4. Capture Rain Water
Follow these practices and you’ll be using water wisely!

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