

Water Conservation Tips and Resources from the Beautification Advisory Committee

Living in the 2nd driest state in the country necessitates a certain amount of personal responsibility when it comes to water conservation. Below are a few statistics from the EPA to help put the seriousness of the situation into perspective.

- Outdoor water use accounts for more than 30 percent of total household water use, on average, but can be as much as 60 percent of total household water use in arid regions.
- If the average sized lawn in the United States is watered for 20 minutes every day for 7 days, it's like running the shower constantly for 4 days or taking more than 800 showers. That's equivalent to the amount of water needed for the average family to take 1 years' worth of showers.
- As much as 50 percent of the water we use outdoors is lost due to wind, evaporation, and runoff caused by inefficient irrigation methods and systems. A household with an automatic landscape irrigation system that isn't properly maintained and operated can waste up to 25,000 gallons of water annually.
- When hiring a professional to install or audit your landscape irrigation system, be sure he or she is certified by a WaterSense labeled irrigation program. If the system is well managed, a household's irrigation water use can be reduced by 15 percent, or nearly 7,600 gallons of water, annually. That's the amount of water needed to take 480 showers.

Orem was recently named the “[Greenest City in Utah](#)” by Insurify.com. We can all do a little better by making deliberate choices to keep Orem green AND conserve water along the way. There are countless resources available to help us make more educated and deliberate water conservation choices. Below are a few of the best!

1. Convert the park strip in front of your home from grass to a more water-efficient xeriscape – visit <https://localscapes.com/> for more information.
2. Visit the following sites for selecting water-wise plants:

Conservation Garden Park Plant Database

- **Organization:** Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District
- **Link:** <https://conservationgardenpark.org/plants/>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Utah

- **Organization:** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- **Link:** <http://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=UT>

Native Plants for the Intermountain West

- **Organization:** Wyoming Extension/WERA-1013
- **Link:** <http://www.wyoextension.org/westernnativeplants/>

Plant Select ®

- Organization: Colorado State University & Denver Botanic Gardens
- Link: <http://plantselect.org/plants/our-plants/>

Tree Browser

- Organization: Utah State University
- Link: <http://www.treebrowser.org/>

USU Botanical Gardens and Utah House

- Organization: Utah State University
- Link: https://cwel.usu.edu/files/Utah_House_Plant_List_v2_4p.pdf

Water-Wise Plants for Utah Landscapes Database

- Organization: Utah Division of Water Resources
- Link: <http://www.waterwiseplants.utah.gov/>

Water-Wise Plant Lists for Salt Lake City

- Organization: Salt Lake City Public Utilities
- Link: http://www.slcdocs.com/utilities/PDF%20Files/2013_SLCPlantList_ver2-1.pdf

3. Consider using multi-stream irrigation heads instead of a traditional spray head for watering grass. Some studies report 30% water savings just by switching heads. Hunter MP Rotators and Rain Bird Multi-Stream Rotary heads are a popular choice!
4. The State of Utah offers a rebate of up to \$150 on a smart sprinkler controller for your yard. Visit <https://utahwatersavers.com/Program/6/smart-controller/> for more information.
5. Visit <https://slowtheflow.org/> to find the weekly watering guide, conservation tips, and more information from the Governor's Water Conservation Team.
6. Visit the Central Utah Gardens for hands-on learning, classes, and to talk to professionals!

Conserving water in our beautiful city starts with each of us individually! We wish you the best in your conservation efforts!

Beautification Advisory Committee