

WHAT IS YOUR LANDSCAPE WORTH?

To your home value?

To the environment?

To your community and state economy?

Landscaping provides numerous benefits, the most visible of which is the contribution to our quality of lives. However, trees, turf, and flowers also help our environment, increase our property values and generates \$2.2 billion to the Colorado economy. Here are five reasons it's worth preserving:

1. Quality landscaping improves your property value.

A well-maintained lawn can enhance "curb appeal" adding as much as 15 percent to the value of a home.¹ A landscaped patio, a hedge as well as landscaped curbs add respectively 12.4%, 3.6% and 4.4% to the market value of a house.² Prudential Real Estate estimates that more than half of all houses are sold before the buyers even get out of their cars.³

2. It is expensive to replace existing landscapes and takes more water to establish.

Replacing sod costs an average of \$1-1.50 per square foot, or \$1,500 for a 1,000 square foot lawn.⁴ The average size of a lawn along the Front Range is around 5,000 square feet – that could mean over \$5,000 in replacement costs. Additionally, replacing sod will consume more water down the road, than maintaining the current landscape.

3. Landscape improves air and water quality.

One tree can remove 26 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year, equaling 11,000 miles of car emissions.⁵ A 50' x 50' lawn releases enough oxygen for a family of four to breathe.⁶ A lawn also reduces carbon dioxide emissions, mitigates the heat island effect, reduces energy consumption and contributes to reducing global warming.⁷

4. Landscape enhances energy efficiency.

Landscaping reduces air conditioning costs by up to 50%, by shading windows and walls of a home.⁸ A single urban tree can provide up to \$273 a year in air conditioning, pollution fighting, erosion and storm water control, and wildlife shelter benefits.⁹ Healthy front

lawns of eight houses have the cooling effect of about 70 tons of air conditioning—enough for 16 average-sized homes.¹⁰

5. The landscaping industry helps fuel Colorado's weakened economy.

Landscaping provides \$2.2 billion each year to Colorado's economy and contributes more than 40,000 jobs.¹¹ The Green Industries of Colorado advocates equitable water conservation, shared by the indoor and outdoor home use, manufacturing, industry and agriculture to provide for conservation that really works.

For more information on water conservation and the Green Industries of Colorado, log onto www.greenco.org.

Sources:

¹ Gallup Organization survey conducted on behalf of American Gardening Association

² Journal of Real Estate Research—Landscaping and House Values: An Empirical Investigation

³ Prudential Real Estate

⁴ GreenCO

⁵ Virginia Polytechnic Institute Cooperative Extension

^{6, 11} Green Industries of Colorado (GreenCO)

⁷ United States Congress

⁸ American Public Power Association

⁹ American Forests

¹⁰ Professional Lawn Care Association of America



Still have Questions? Ask a Professional!

Find a qualified professional in your area by visiting the GreenCO web site at www.greenco.org or the CSU Cooperative Extension at www.ext.colostate.edu.

CONSERVING WATER: What's it worth to you?



Brought to you by:

The Green Industries of
Colorado

AND

Colorado State University
Cooperative Extension

Green Industries of Colorado
members:

*Associated Landscape Contractors
of Colorado (ALCC)

*Colorado Association of Lawn
Care Professionals (CALCP)

*Colorado Chapter of American Society of
Landscape Architects (CCASLA)

*Colorado Greenhouse Growers
Association (CGGA)

*Colorado Nursery Association (CNA)

*Garden Centers of Colorado (GCC)

*Rocky Mountain Chapter of International
Society of Arboriculture (RMC-ISA)

*Rocky Mountain Sod Growers
Association (RMSGGA)

*Wholesale Florists of Colorado (WFC)

Compliments of: DenverPlants.com

Easy Ways to Save Water

With Colorado facing its worst drought in recorded history, it is CRITICAL that we ALL conserve water this autumn and winter. Be a part of the solution, not the problem. Conserving water indoors, will provide for water to be used for landscapes. Here are some quick, easy ways to do your part:

INDOORS

- Place a plastic bottle filled with water, sand or stone into the toilet tank (avoid bricks), which lowers the water level and conserves water.
- Limit flushing (“if it’s yellow, let it mellow; if it’s brown, flush it down”).
- Fill the bathtub with a limited amount of water. Reuse bath and shower water outdoors on your landscape (check with local health departments on various regulations).
- Recycle water that would otherwise go to waste. This might include putting a bucket in the shower to catch extra water, which can be used to water trees, shrubs, beds and containers.
- Install a water-efficient showerhead; take 3-5 minute showers instead of a bath.
- When brushing teeth, washing face, or shaving, use a glassful/bowl of water instead of running the tap.
- Check for water leaks on faucets, washers and toilets.
- Run only full loads of dishes in a dishwasher; wash only full loads of laundry.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill up the sink with soap and water instead of running the water the whole time.
- Keep cold water in the refrigerator, instead of running the tap until the water cools.

- Insulate your water pipes. You’ll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.
- Use fish tank water, cooking water, left over water in a water glass or pet bowl on plants.
- Defrost food in the refrigerator, not under running water.
- Replace your toilet with an efficient 1.6-gallon per flush toilet.

OUTSIDE

- Wash your car at a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- Shut down fountains and waterfalls.
- Use moisture sensors to determine when you should water your yard and plants (available in hardware stores).
- Avoid using water to clean walks and driveways.
- Mulch when you mow and leave the clippings on the lawn.
- Mulch shrub beds, tree wells with a wood-based mulch.
- Install a rain shutoff device on your automatic sprinkler system.
- Plant drought resistant plants. Incorporate xeric landscape principles into your yard.

- Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than a closely-clipped lawn.
- If bluegrass or fescue is mostly green and outdoor temperatures are cool, core aerate and apply a fertilizer including both quick and slow release forms of nitrogen, if water is available.
- If (already) bluegrass or fescue is mostly dormant (tan or brown) from summer dormancy, do not fertilize or core aerate this fall.
- Consider drip irrigation systems around trees and shrubs.
- Keep landscapes free of weeds, as weeds are water thieves and will rob your plants of water and nutrients.

Sources:

American Water and Energy Savers, Inc.
California Urban Water Conservation Council
(www.n2house.net)
North Beach Middle School Water Conservation
(www.geocities.com/RainForest/7575/#bath)

