STAGE 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT! PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE OFTEN FOR UPDATES TO CURRENT RULES AND REGULATIONS TO AVOID CITATIONS! www.cityofallen.org OR CALL 214-509-3111.

Environmental Tips for the Landscaper in your Life!



It's about time to dust off the mower and get the tools ready for some serious yard maintenance! But with water restrictions being what they are right now, here are some helpful hints for a sustainable green patch on your property:

- Grasscycling Heard of it?? This is when you mulch grass clippings back into the lawn. It helps to build the soil's organic matter creating a free form of fertilizing where the natural nitrogen in the grass helps to fertilize the soil. Never remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade when mowing and use a mulching blade and you will never see the clippings on the lawn!
- Mow at proper height! Lawns do not have to be scalped very short in the spring, but should be mowed properly all year according to variety. Grass varieties: St. Augustine and Buffalo= 3-4 inches; Bermuda= 1-2 inches; Centipede and Zoysia =2-3 inches. Regular mowing should begin when grass is coming out of dormancy in the spring.
- Fertilize only after the dormant grass is green and growing! This normally occurs only after the soil temperatures
 have warmed past 65 degrees. Once you have mowed green growing grass (not weeds) twice, fertilize by using a
 slow-release form of nitrogen, according to label directions, but using no more than 1 pound of actual nitrogen
 per 1000 square feet. Excess nitrogen use can pollute our water supply when it runs off of lawns into storm
 drains.
- Add compost to lawns/flower beds key benefits include improved soil drainage and water retention (especially useful during those dry months!), increased nutrient content of the soil, reduction in the need for chemical additives to soil and a deterrent to soil erosion/compaction. For tip on how to use compost, go to www.texaspureproducts.com!!
- Wait until water restrictions discontinue before replacing landscape and turfgrass. When replacing, think
 drought tolerant materials-those plants that naturally survive on our normal rainfall amount, where little
 supplemental watering is necessary.
- Learn more yard maintenance tips each year by attending the Sustainable Landscape Series. Learn about it on our website: www.cityofallen.org or call 214-509-4553. ©