A manicured lawn uses more water and requires more time and effort to maintain than other forms of landscaping. Watering, mowing, weed control and fertilizing have both economic and environmental impact. There are many low maintenance alternatives to lawn that are attractive, environmentally sensitive and require little to no watering.

**ALTERNATIVES TO LAWN:**

- Consider installing permeable paths
- Let native moss grow — it’s perfect for shady, moist spots
- Try drought tolerant groundcovers
- Replace lawn with micro clover – it’s green and pest resistant

**IF LAWN IS A NECESSITY:**

- Deep watering once a week during the dry season is all you need
- Allow lawn to go dormant (gold) in summer – it will green up again in the fall

**OUR WATER DOESN’T JUST FALL FROM THE SKY**

Vancouver has some of the best tap-water in the world. Rain and snowmelt are captured in three protected reservoirs. What we capture in the rainy months is what has to last us through our warm, dry summers.

Before delivery to homes and businesses, this water is treated and transported through a vast network of water pipes. Water released down the drain gets treated again before being released to the environment.

Being water wise helps conserve and keep our water affordable.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Sewer treatment is half the cost of water! By reducing overall water use, we reduce the cost to treat the water that we’ve used.

**WATER WISE TIPS**

- **GO FOR GOLD!**
  Show your commitment to being water wise and let your lawn go naturally gold this summer!

- **ADD MULCH!**
  Mulch keeps weeds at bay and prevents soil erosion and compaction. It also helps shelter soil and reduce evaporation.

- **CONSIDER LAWN ALTERNATIVES**
  Plant drought tolerant groundcovers, shade-loving moss, or consider paths and patios to save on water and time.

- **TAKE A BREAK FROM WASHING THE CAR**
  If it really needs a scrub, take it to a car wash — they use up to 7 times less water than hosing it down at home.

- **Sweep AND SPOT CLEAN**
  Spot clean your windows with a sponge, sweep away leaves and debris rather than using a hose to spray them away.

- **FOLLOW LAWN WATERING RESTRICTIONS**
  One hour a week is all your lawn really needs to be healthy.

**WATER WISE LAWN AND GARDEN**

How to have a beautiful and stylish landscape without wasting water.
**DROUGHT TOLERANT**

Drought tolerant plants survive with very little water once established. While native plants flourish in our climate of dry summers and wet winters, they don’t always offer us the range of colour we desire. Using plants from other regions of the world can broaden our colour palette. They will perform beautifully alongside native species while injecting a boost of colour.

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**NATIVE PLANTS**

Who knows our environment better than the locals? Native plants are attractive and perfectly adapted to our growing conditions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plants &amp; Groundcovers</th>
<th>SWORD FERN (Polystichum munitum)</th>
<th>IDAHO FESCUE (Festuca idahoensis ‘Stidley Blue’)</th>
<th>NODDING ONION (Allium sphaerocephalon)</th>
<th>WESTERN COLUMBINE (Aquilegia Formosa)</th>
<th>SHOWY ASTER (Aster conspicuus)</th>
<th>COMMON YARROW (Achillea millefolium)</th>
<th>KINNICKINNICK (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi)</th>
<th>REDWOOD SORREL (Oxalis oregana)</th>
<th>BROAD-LEAFED STONECROP (Sedum spathulifolium)</th>
<th>CASCADE OREGON GRAPE (Mahonia nervosa)</th>
<th>RED-FLOWERED CURRANT (Ribes sanguineum)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perennials</strong></td>
<td>• Evergreen perennial to 1.2m by 1.2m</td>
<td>• Evergreen clumping grass to 45cm</td>
<td>• Deciduous bulb growing to 30-45cm</td>
<td>• Deciduous perennial growing to 60cm</td>
<td>• Deciduous perennial growing up to 1m</td>
<td>• Deciduous perennial to 1m adored by butterflies</td>
<td>• Mat-forming evergreen growing 10-15cm tall by 60cm</td>
<td>• Deciduous creeping ground cover to 20cm</td>
<td>• Evergreen succulent groundcover that forms a dense mat</td>
<td>• Evergreen shrub that grows 0.6m high by 1.3m wide</td>
<td>• Deciduous shrub growing to 2.5m high by 2.5m wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Groundcovers</strong></td>
<td>• Full shade to part shade, grows in most soil types</td>
<td>• Evergreen steel blue foliage and wheat coloured flowers in summer</td>
<td>• Flower stalks appear to droop before opening into showy pink umbels</td>
<td>• Spurred bright red-orange outer petals and yellow inner</td>
<td>• Violet blue daisy flowers in summer</td>
<td>• Showy white flower clusters above lacy foliage</td>
<td>• Prefers lighter soils, full to part sun</td>
<td>• Prefers full to part shade, moist to dry soils of any type</td>
<td>• Prolific pink bell flowers in spring and red berries in fall</td>
<td>• Grows in full sun to part shade and most well-drained soils</td>
<td>• Grows in full sun to part shade, handling most soil types with good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residential lawn watering</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stage 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stage 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stage 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stage 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stage 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stage 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stage 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stage 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Stage 2</strong></td>
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<td>PROHIBITED</td>
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<td>Garden, shrubs, trees</td>
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<td>No restrictions</td>
<td>Hand or spring-loaded shut-off nozzle ONLY</td>
<td>By spring-loaded shut-off nozzle ONLY</td>
<td>By spring-loaded shut-off nozzle ONLY</td>
<td>For safety only (mirrors, windows, license plates)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Car and boat washing</td>
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<td>RESTRICTED</td>
<td>By spring-loaded shut-off nozzle ONLY</td>
<td>By spring-loaded shut-off nozzle ONLY</td>
<td>For safety only (mirrors, windows, license plates)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surface and power washing</td>
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<td>RESTRICTED</td>
<td>RESTRICTED</td>
<td>No restrictions</td>
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**Water Wise Garden**

PIK
Lychnis coronaria (Rose Campion)

RED
Geum ‘Blazing Sunset’ (Geum)

ORANGE
Helianthus ‘Mardi Gras’ (Sneezeweed)

YELLOW
Rudbeckia fulgida ‘Goldsturm’ (Black-Eyed Susan)

GREEN
Euphorbia ‘Shorty’ (Evergreen Spurge)

BLUE
Echinops ‘Veitch’s Blue’ (Globe Thistle)

PURPLE
Lavandula ‘Ellagance Purple’ (Lavender)

WHITE
Echinacea ‘Pow Wow White’ (White coneflower)