



Hello To All!

Last year we seemed to have a late start to spring and this year we never really had any winter. The concern is water shortage this year. So this newsletter hopefully help you with ideas to use water wisely and still enjoy you gardens. Department of Environmental Protection has a web site that deals with the drought emergency that gives guidelines to nonessential water use restrictions. It is : www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/hotopics/drought/FAQ.htm The email address for questions is: droughtinfo@state.pa.us. For those who do not have access to the internet the following phone number for questions is 1-717-772-4048.

Also, It is strongly recommended to check with your local water company for specific restrictions over DEP's regulations I will be sending this newsletter to those who have given me their email address. The newsletter will continue to be mailed to those who wish to have it mailed through the US Post Office. Those of you have email or access to the internet will be able to get the newsletter via computer. If you have any helpful hints that you would like to share, continue to let us know. The hints will be used in **Busy Lizzie's Mailbox**

Landscape designs and consultations are available by appointment.

Helpful Garden Hints

Ways to recycle water to the garden:

1. Use dehumidifier water
2. Collect water in a bucket while taking a shower
3. Collect water in a container when waiting for the water to get hot.
4. Use leftover bath water*
Can not be used in Pennsylvania
5. If your washing machine drains into a tub, collect the rinse cycles if you have not used liquid bleach or liquid fabric softener during those cycles. * **Can not be used in Pennsylvania**
6. Start rain barrels. Take a clean garbage can to use as a rain barrel, then, cover the garbage can with a lid to prevent insects such as mosquitoes from getting into the water.

Other water saving measures:

1. Be sure to apply the correct depth of mulch – 2”to 3” total depth. Loosen packed mulch to allow water to penetrate the mulch.
2. Water after the sun goes down.
3. Use under mulch irrigation with a timer.
4. Use proper water techniques. Watering less days but for a longer time is much better than watering

Helpful Garden Hints

everyday for short periods of time. Watering every day for short periods of time does not allow water to get down to the root level forcing the plants to grow roots at the surface causing them to dry out during droughts. Deep watering is the best way to prepare the plants for drought conditions. You want the water to soak down at least 3”-6” minimum. If you are using a hose, allow it to trickle slowly for a minimum of ½ hour during any watering session. Be sure to use an automatic shutoff valve. Drip irrigation can be controlled like a hose or pre-regulated if controlled by a valve hooked into the plumbing. DEP gives guidelines as to the use of hoses or irrigation.

Busy Lizzie's Mailbox

Water Tips continued:

Use water used to cook pasta and potatoes after it has cooled down. – Anne K.
Use soda bottles or milk containers to hold water at the plants' roots. Punch holes in bottom of the bottles and fill up with water to allow it to slowly soak into the mulch and soil.

***Gray water (waste water – bath and laundry) can not be used in Pennsylvania**

An E-Z Design Co.

9435 Carlisle Road Dillsburg, Pa 17019

717-432-8496

Email:

ezdesign@igateway.com

www.ezdesignco.com

