

## wise water usage



## outdoors

Outdoor watering can account for 50% of a home's water consumption during warm months. Some estimates indicate that half of this water goes to waste as a result of evaporation, runoff, or over watering. Where to water, when and how much are key considerations for having a healthy lawn, garden, and a lower water bill. Holland BPW offers the following tips on using water wisely outdoors.

▶ Group plants according to their water needs. Instead of watering the whole garden, you'll only need to water in those areas that need moisture. Lawns need to be watered more frequently than most plants. So make it easy to water your lawn separately.

▶ Consider planting Xeriscape plants. These plants can live with little to no water. Examples of these plants that grow well in Michigan include: sunflowers, salvia and dusty miller. Ask your local greenhouse for similar plants.

▶ Place mulch around bushes and trees to reduce water evaporation and to help your plants withstand heat and sunlight.

▶ Make sure the water lands on soil, not on the sidewalk, driveway or street.

▶ If you're considering a pond or fountain with running water, use re-circulating pumps.

▶ When watering, do so only in the early morning or at night. Don't water in the middle of the day, when the sun will evaporate most of the water before it has a chance to get into the ground.

▶ It's the roots you want to water, not the plants. Wetting the surface without penetrating the root zone will provide no value to your plants.

▶ The first few warm days does not automatically mean it's time to water lawns. Allowing your lawn to start to go under mild drought stress will increase rooting. Water when your grass does not spring back when stepped upon.

▶ Water so that moisture gets down to the depth of the roots, except for newly seeded lawns where the surface needs to stay moist and newly sodded lawns that have not yet rooted into the soil.

▶ Drip irrigation and soaker hoses are the best way to water most plants, except your lawn. These systems deliver water directly to the roots of your plants, which reduces the number of times you need to water your garden. Cover soaker hoses and drip systems with at least 2 inches of mulch to prevent evaporation and to help spread the water flow.

▶ If you use an automatic sprinkler system, adjust the watering schedule monthly, to accommodate current weather conditions.

Watering wisely means healthier landscapes, and savings in your pocket.

## Lake Macatawa Water Main Work to Resume

Construction of a 3,200-foot waterline began in the fall 2005, to enhance reliability of the City's water system for years to come.

Work on the water main under Lake Macatawa had been suspended in December 2005. The Lake crossing project had been successful in pulling the pipe across the lake from 144<sup>th</sup> and Division Avenue on the north side. However, the pipe is lodged forty feet below the ground surface near the south side connecting site.

The Holland BPW, the project contractor and consulting engineers are in the process of determining the best construction method to build a deep shaft in order to enable workers to install a fitting on the pipe and subsequently install the 30" water main to the surface. A plan of construction, which will have no physical impact on the integrity of the shoreline, is being developed. HBPW Water Services Director John Van Uffelen estimates that work on the project will be resuming in the very near future. The project, the third lake crossing transmission line for the HBPW system, is expected to be completed by early summer.

After the deep excavation work is completed and the pipe is brought to the surface, the water main will be connected to the water transmission system on the south and north sides of Lake Macatawa. The transmission water main will be operational once disinfection and pressure testing is completed.

## Holland's Drinking Water Consistently Surpasses All Federal & State Requirements

Utilizing internal and external laboratories, the Holland BPW's Water Services Department routinely collects and analyzes water samples to ensure the safety of our drinking water. During 2005, over 50,000 tests were conducted for potential drinking water contaminants. Once again the Holland BPW's drinking water has met or surpassed every federal and state requirement set for water quality and safety.

Details of those tests as well as information regarding the source of your drinking water and how the water is treated will be highlighted in the HBPW's annual Water Quality Report. Also known as the Consumer Confidence Report, this document conforms to the Federal regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act requiring water utilities to annually provide water quality information to their customers. The Report will be distributed to customers in the next couple of months.

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## Don't Dig Yourself into Trouble



Thinking about planting trees and shrubs or considering installing a fence? Don't dig yourself into trouble. Did you know that if you damage a utility line, you are responsible for its repair? Call MISS DIG before you dig. Established in 1970, MISS DIG offers **FREE** utility staking service so that damages to critical utilities can be avoided.

Open 24 hours, seven days a week to take requests, MISS DIG is not a utility. MISS DIG has no record of facility locations and does not locate underground facilities. It is a free message handling service that receives location requests from persons who will be digging or excavating. Each utility is responsible for marking its own facilities.

All you have to do is call the MISS DIG toll free number at 800/482-7171, three days prior to digging. MISS DIG will make arrangements for the various utility companies to stake (place flags) where the utility lines are located.

When you call you will be asked the following questions: your name, phone number and address, who is doing the digging, your location, city/township, county and what type of work is being performed. You will be given a ticket number as a reference, keep this number in case you need to refer to it later.

The colorful flags used to mark underground utility lines can be very attractive to young children. Remind children that the flags are not toys and that they should not be removed. If the flags are removed before digging, call MISS DIG back and inform them that you need your

yard marked again. Do not try and replace the flags yourself. Once the digging is complete, remove the flags and discard them.

Staking flags are color-coded to identify each utility. Color codes are:

-  ELECTRIC
-  WATER SYSTEMS
-  TELEPHONE, CABLE TV, FIRE & POLICE COMMUNICATIONS
-  STORM DRAINS
-  GAS & OIL
-  SEWER SYSTEMS
-  SURVEYING

### Don't forget overhead lines

Overhead utility lines also need to be protected from damage. If you are using equipment on a construction project that cannot maintain a minimum 10 foot clearance from any overhead electric lines -- please inform the MISS DIG operator. Instructions regarding the proper procedures you need to take will be provided.