



Spring Irrigation Check-Up

Outdoor Watering Tips

Springtime's colors are already peeking out as local lawns and gardens begin their transformation from winter hibernation to the early growing season.



The key to efficient outdoor irrigation is applying just enough water and only when necessary. Water-wise habits will result in a healthier lawn and landscape, in addition to conserving water. Plus, reducing your consumption will help reduce your water bill.

Irrigation systems help you to enjoy your yard, and to keep it healthy and beautiful. However, most homeowners tend to overwater their lawn or waste water through inefficient habits.

This is the perfect time to plan new gardens and to make sure your outdoor irrigation system is in good working condition. Here are a few helpful tips that could make your system more efficient and save you money at the same time:

Preventive Maintenance

- Check and clean your irrigation hardware including sprinkler heads and all connectors. Rust and dirt deposits can clog systems if left unchecked over a period of years.
- Position broadcast sprinkler heads to avoid paved surfaces.
- Check your timer. If your system uses an automatic timer, make sure it's working properly by timing the system with a separate watch. Replace the batteries to preserve your timer settings.

Irrigation Meters

- An irrigation meter may be the best option for customers who irrigate in large volumes (more than 9,200 gallons per month for total residential use). The cost per gallon is slightly higher with an irrigation meter, but there is no wastewater volume charge added.

Smart Irrigation Saves Money

- Don't be a water waster. A three-quarter-inch hose and broadcast sprinkler uses between five and eight gallons per minute. That's between 300 to 500 gallons of water per hour.
- Water lawns and gardens in the early morning hours, preferably between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. during normal rainfall seasons.
- Build healthy lawn root systems by raising the blade height on your lawnmower to help keep the soil cool, and mulch the grass clippings back into the soil.
- Use drip or soaker hoses in planted beds.

Facts About Boron in Irrigation Water

- Boron, an element that is unregulated by EPA for human health concerns, passes through MPW's reverse osmosis (RO) treatment process. The finished treated water has been tested and the Boron levels are approximately 2.5 ppm.
- Guidelines provided by Clemson University, Agricultural Service Laboratory, indicate that some species of plants will experience problems with irrigation water concentrations exceeding 2.0 ppm.
- Certain species are more susceptible to boron toxicity including magnolias, hydrangeas, red tips, pear, apple, peach, pecan and citrus trees.
- Toxicity symptoms typically include a yellowing, spotting, or drying of leaf tissues (or these in combination). The damage appears on the older leaf tips. Younger leaves do not exhibit any symptoms.
- Only those areas receiving mostly RO treated water are affected. This includes the Old Village and older areas of Mount Pleasant off Ben Sawyer and Coleman Boulevards, the Mathis Ferry Road and Remley's Point area, and Rifle Range Road from Ben Sawyer north to Six Mile Road.
- Most other areas, especially Long Point Road and the Highway 17 North areas receive primarily Charleston Water System water which does not have Boron because it is treated surface water.

For more information about irrigation water quality go to the Clemson University Agricultural Extension Service website: (<http://www.clemson.edu/agrvlb/feedback3.htm>).



22nd Annual Town of Mount Pleasant Blessing of the Fleet and Seafood Festival

Join the fun and festivities on Sunday, **April 26 from 11:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.** at Alhambra Hall and Park in the Old Village.

Co-sponsored by the Town of Mount Pleasant and the Blessing of the Fleet Committee, the event proceeds will be presented to the SC Shrimpers Association, Louie's Kids and East Cooper Meals on Wheels.

Highlights

- ◆ Artist Guild display
- ◆ Arts and Crafts Show
- ◆ Children's Stage with magicians, clowns, and facepainting
- ◆ Marine and wildlife exhibits
- ◆ Contests (Shrimp-eating and Shag-dancing)
- ◆ And, of course, lots of fabulous food from local restaurants.

Be sure to stop by the MPW booth and get free, ice-cold water.

For more information go to: www.mtpleasantrec.com and click **Special Events**, or call the Recreation Dept. at 884-8517.

The MPW Commission Newsletter Water Lines is produced in-house and mailed to customers each month with bills and statements. Current and past issues can also be viewed and downloaded from our website:

Save Money on Your Water Bill



EPA encourages water efficiency with "Water Sense"

Because minor water leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched its first "Fix a Leak Week" in March to remind Americans of the environmental and economic benefits to fixing leaks from household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems.

In most cases, fixture replacement parts can be installed by do-it-yourselfers and pay for themselves in a short amount of time. Remember to look for the WaterSense label if you have to replace a bathroom fixture.

Here are a few water-saving tips from the EPA:

- ◆ Reduce faucet leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and, if necessary, replace the faucet with a WaterSense labeled model.
- ◆ Leaky toilets are most often the result of a worn toilet flapper. Replacing the rubber flapper is a quick fix that could save a home up to 200 gallons of water per day.
- ◆ For a leaky garden hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.
- ◆ Landscape irrigation systems should be checked each spring before use to make sure they are not damaged by frost or freezing.

For more information about WaterSense go to: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak/>



Budget Meeting Schedule

- ◆ **April 20** - Budget Workshop, 5:00 p.m.; Regular meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ **May 18** - Budget Public Hearing 5:00 p.m.; Regular meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ **June 8** - Public Hearing on Proposed Operating and Capital Budget Update and FY2010 and FY2011 rates, fees and charges, 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ **June 29** - Annual Commission Meeting to Adopt FY2010 and FY2011 Budgets and Rates, 6:00 p.m.

MPW Operations Center

1619 Rifle Range Road

Monday - Friday • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

884-9626 • 884-4858 (fax)

customerservice@mpwonline.com

Email requests will be processed the following business day.

Quick News and Notes

Help is available!

Have you met with difficult financial times that are making it hard to pay your utility bills?

Call Mount Pleasant Waterworks before your account falls behind so we can discuss your options.

The United Way can also help. Their 2-1-1 Hotline is available 24 hours a day. Dial **744-HELP** from your cell phone.

East Cooper Community Outreach (**ECCO**) is an ecumenical organization which offers emergency financial assistance for utility bills to qualifying applicants who are screened by ECCO. The gift is based on need.

There are many community resources available to help — you just need to reach out.



Turn your pennies into **DOLLARS** to benefit East Cooper Community Outreach (**ECCO**) or Water Missions International (**WMI**). Just call **884-9626** and tell us you want to **ROUND-UP** your bill payment to the next highest dollar and request the change go to either **ECCO** (see "Help is Available" above) -or- **WMI**. You can also sign up online by clicking the **Customer Service** tab on the navigation bar, then **ROUND-UP** on the drop-down menu.