

# Drought Response Plan

## *Outdoor Water Use Recommendation*

May 2019

Ships Point Improvement District

## **Definition of Outdoor Water Use Recommendation Stages**

### **Stage 1**

Stage 1 is in force on any day throughout the year when Stages 2, 3, and 4 are not in effect. See Appendix 1 for best practices for wise water use outside.

### **Stage 2**

Stage 2 is in force from May 15 or a) when the water level of Well 4 is above a mean level of 5 meters, based on a two-week trend line or b) it is the view of a majority of Board members that it is prudent to declare Stage 2 and c) Stages 3 and 4 are not in effect.

### **Stage 3**

Stage 3 is in force when a) the water level of Well 4 is below a mean level of 5 meters, based on a two week trend line or b) it is the view of a majority of Board members that it is prudent to declare Stage 3 and c) Stage 4 is not in effect.

### **Stage 4**

Stage 4 is an extreme drought condition. Please refrain from all outdoor water use.

## Stage 1

Recommendation best practices for water conservation apply.

## Stage 2

During Stage 2 a person may use outdoor water between the hours of 10:00 PM and 10:00 AM for a maximum of three (3) hours, unless otherwise specified:

- (a) to water a lawn growing on the property using a sprinkler;
- (b) to wash sidewalks, driveways at any time of the day; and
- (c) to water trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables with a sprinkler
- (d) to water newly planted trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables by any method during installation and for the following 24 hours;
- (e) to water new sod on installation or newly seeded lawns until growth is established or for 49 days after installation, whichever is less, with a sprinkler
- (f) micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation systems to water trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables at any time of the day
- (g) to wash a vehicle with water using a hand-held container or hand-held hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle at any time of the day;
- (h) to wash exterior windows and building surfaces with water using a hand-held container or hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- i) Hand held watering permitted anytime with a hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut off nozzle.

## Stage 3

1. During Stage 3 please refrain from the following use of water unless otherwise specified:
  - (a) Watering a lawn (except between the hours of 10:00 PM and 10:00 AM for a maximum of three (3) hours for a three (3) meter perimeter around the dwelling as a FireSmart Strategy);
  - (b) Filling or adding water to a swimming pool, hot tub, or garden pond;
  - (c) Filling or adding water to a decorative water feature or fish pond at any time; and
  - (d) Washing a vehicle or a boat.
2. During Stage 3 a person may use outdoor water between the hours of 10:00 PM and 10:00 AM for a maximum of three (3) hours, to do the following unless otherwise specified:
  - (a) Wash sidewalks, driveways and parking lots as necessary for applying a product such as paint, preservative and stucco, preparing a surface prior to paving or repointing bricks, or if required by law to comply with health or safety regulations, at any time of the day;

- (b) Water trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables with a sprinkler, or by hand held container or a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle;
- (c) Water newly planted trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables by any method during installation
- (d) Water new sod on installation or newly seeded lawns until growth is established or for 49 days after installation, whichever is less, with a sprinkler, or at any time for a maximum of three (3) hours per day if watering is done by a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle; and
- (e) Use micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation systems to water trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables.

#### **Stage 4    Extreme Drought Conditions**

Please refrain from all use of outdoor water except for the following:

- (a) Spot cleaning of vehicles and boats with a sponge and bucket for health and safety reasons (windows, lights, license plates, etc.)
- (b) Cleaning outdoor surfaces is only authorized when required by law to comply with health or safety regulations, or to comply with an order of a regulatory authority having jurisdiction, such as WorkSafeBC or a public health inspector;
- (c) Firefighting

# Outdoor Water Use Recommendation Summary at a Glance

**Stage 1**            No recommendations, however best practices are recommended.

**Stage 2**    When Well 4 is above 5 meter level

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| (i) Watering lawns & trees  | Between 10 pm - 10 am |
| (ii) Watering lawns and gardens within 3 meters of the perimeter of a dwelling ** | Between 10 pm - 10 am |
| (iii) Hand-watering, drip, and micro irrigation                                   | Anytime               |
| (iv) Vehicle, Boat & House washing  | Anytime               |
| (v) Filling pools, hot tubs, ponds and fountains                                  | Anytime               |
| (vi) Pressure washing walkways driveways, & siding                                | Anytime               |

**Stage 3**    When Well 4 is deemed to be below the 5 meter level

- |  |                       |             |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| i) Watering lawns & trees  | not permitted         |             |
| ii) Watering lawns and gardens within 3 meters of the perimeter of a dwelling ** | Between 10 pm - 10 am | Max 3 hours |
| iii) Hand-watering, drip, and micro irrigation                                   | Anytime               | Max 3 hours |
| iv) Vehicle, Boat & House washing  | not permitted         |             |
| v) Filling pools, hot tubs, ponds and fountains                                  | not permitted         |             |
| vi) Pressure washing walkways driveways,   | not permitted         |             |
| vii) Pressure washing siding or stucco prior to painting                         | not permitted         |             |
| viii) Fire protection and prevention   | anytime               |             |

**Stage 4**    Extreme Drought Conditions

All use of outdoor water is prohibited, except section (a), (b) or (c) of the detailed text.

## Appendix 1

### Best Practises for Watering

#### Water less frequently but thoroughly

Deep watering encourages deeper root growth and stronger plants. Moisture meters are a great tool but your finger an inch or two into the soil is also a good gauge. If pots aren't too large then picking them up is a good way to judge if they are in need of water. Letting the soil dry out a bit between waterings helps aerate the soil and discourages fungal growth.

#### Water the root zone of the plant(s)

Targeted watering by soaker hose, drip or other micro irrigation is more effective at targeting the root zone of plants than overhead watering. Hand watering is generally most beneficial when water is put inside the dripline of plants and shrubs.

#### Water efficiently

Measuring sprinkler output is a great way to gauge how long you need to water in order not to over or underwater.

Watering is best finished by about 10:00 am in order to minimize evaporation.

Mulching garden beds can help them to retain moisture between waterings.

#### Check and maintain sprinklers

Once a month checks of irrigation systems for blocked sprinkler heads and other problems will ensure the most effective use of water.