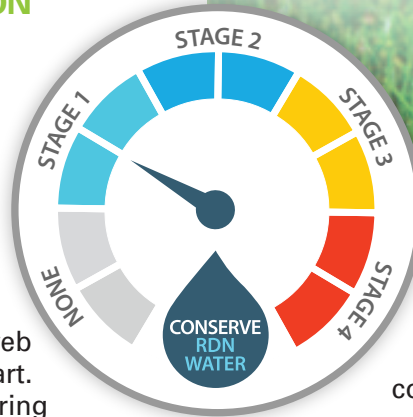


# WATERnews

## REGIONAL WATERING RESTRICTION FRAMEWORK ADOPTED

The RDN has joined other major water purveyors in the region to develop a new standardized watering restriction framework with unified terms for watering restriction stages region-wide. This has been done to streamline communication with the public and to reduce confusion across the Region. A centralized website with an interactive web map is available via [www.teamwatersmart.ca](http://www.teamwatersmart.ca) for residents to view the current watering restriction stage for their area.



Water purveyors will individually select when a stage comes into effect in their area. This decision will be based on water source availability and levels of demand, and will be communicated clearly to their customers.

[www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca)

### Framework Working Group

- City of Nanaimo
- District of Lantzville
- City of Parksville
- Town of Qualicum Beach
- Bowser Waterworks
- Deep Bay Waterworks
- EPCOR French Creek
- Qualicum Bay – Horne Lake Waterworks
- North Cedar Improvement District
- Southwest Extension Waterworks
- Regional District of Nanaimo Water Service areas

WATERING RESTRICTION STAGE	1	2	3	4
EFFECTIVE DATES	April and October	May to September	Only as Required	
Frequency	Any Day	Every Other Day: Even# Houses – Even# Days Odd# Houses – Odd# Days	↑ Voluntary Reductions on top of Stage 2 ↓	SPRINKLING BAN: Lawn Watering NOT PERMITTED
Watering Times	Between 7pm and 7am	Between 7-10am or 7-10pm for 2 hrs MAX		Between 7-10am or 7-10pm
Hand-watering, drip irrigation, micro irrigation	ANYTIME	ANYTIME		NOT PERMITTED
Washing vehicles, boats, houses (siding)	ANYTIME	ANYTIME		NOT PERMITTED
Filling fountains, pools, hot tubs	ANYTIME	ANYTIME		NOT PERMITTED
New lawn permits	Can apply for a permit	Can apply for a permit		NO PERMITS ISSUED
Pressure washing walkways, driveways, siding	ANYTIME	ANYTIME		ONLY prior to application of paint, preservative, stucco, or sealant

Vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from all watering restrictions, even Stage 4.

PLEASE VISIT

[www.teamwatersmart.ca](http://www.teamwatersmart.ca)

for exemptions to the watering restrictions, links to each participating purveyor, and answers to **Frequently Asked Questions**.

The effectiveness of the new regional watering restriction framework will be reviewed in the Fall of 2016. Please feel free to send your comments and suggestions to [rcu@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:rcu@rdn.bc.ca).

**MAKE EVERY DROP COUNT!**

Turn the page for WaterSmart tips and efficiency rebates!



**GOALS:**

- TO STREAMLINE COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC
- TO ADOPT A REGIONAL WATER RESTRICTION FRAMEWORK
- TO CURB WATER USAGE DURING THE DRY SEASON

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**Regional Watering Restriction Framework**



# IN 2016, LET'S PLAN FOR A WATERSMART SUMMER. ☀️

Neighbour to neighbour, let's all be water savers!

In the summer months, household water demand in the RDN increases **2.5 times over winter levels** due to outdoor use!

In 2015, May and June saw drought conditions & unseasonably high water use in our communities, necessitating heightened watering restrictions later in the summer.

## GO FOR GOLD!



Plan to let your lawn go golden this summer. Turf grass naturally goes dormant in the summer in response to warm, dry conditions, and turns green again when the rains return.

## START NOW!

Prepare your lawn for healthy summer dormancy by...

### Aerating & Top Dressing:

To improve soil health, add a thin layer of quality compost to your lawn each spring and leave grass clippings in place after mowing.

**Over Seeding:** Re-seed each spring with a mix that includes drought-resistant varieties such as perennial rye and fine fescues.

**Mowing High:** Longer grass shades soil, preventing evaporation, and promotes deeper root growth. Make sure your blades are sharp before mowing!

## MAKE A LASTING CHANGE...

Turf the turf and opt for a lawn alternative, xeriscape garden or drought-tolerant native plants.



## WATER EFFICIENCY HAS BEAUTIFUL RESULTS.

Improve soil health by adding compost and mulch to your garden beds. Healthy soil acts like a sponge by holding moisture at the roots of your plants, and mulch shades the soil, preventing evaporation.

**Check for leaks** in in-ground irrigation systems, hoses, and outdoor water features.

**Increase water efficiency** in your home & garden by installing efficient appliances, harvesting rainwater, and more!

Visit [www.rdnrebates.ca](http://www.rdnrebates.ca) for 2016's rebate program offerings.

## WHAT ARE STAGE 3 "VOLUNTARY REDUCTIONS"?

In the event that a higher restriction stage is required, Stage 3 Voluntary Reductions are an opportunity for us to come together as a community and collectively reduce our use before a Stage 4 restriction is implemented.

**It's about flexibility.** Did you work hard to cultivate your perennial beds? Keep them watered, and let the side and back lawns go golden. Love your Saturday morning car wash? Make it a monthly chore rather than a weekly one!

## What are your household's water priorities and use reduction opportunities?

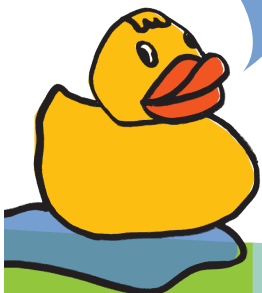
## EVERY DROP COUNTS!



## Questions?

If you have any questions please contact Water & Utility Services at 1-877-607-4111, [rcu@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:rcu@rdn.bc.ca) or visit the WaterSmart website at [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca)

Have a neighbour who's a super water saver? Nominate them for a rubber ducky award in this summer's **Weekly Water Champion Contest!**  
[www.teamwatersmart.ca](http://www.teamwatersmart.ca)



If your garden beautifully demonstrates water conservation and watershed protection, consider submitting a photo to the **WaterSmart Yard Campaign** and receive a free sign for your yard.  
golden lawn • xeriscaping • native plants • organic mulch • rainwater harvesting

[watersmart@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:watersmart@rdn.bc.ca)  
[teamwatersmart.ca](http://teamwatersmart.ca)

