Lawn Care

Don't cut grass to short. Mow it to a height of 2-1/2 to 3 inches and leave the clippings on the grass. This will shade and protect the roots to hold moisture longer. Use 4 inch pop-up spray heads in the sprinkler system.

Aerate. Aeration will help to get water down further to the roots. We recommend that you aerate once a year. Over seeding and fertilization can be done while aerating to thicken the grass that maybe thinned from dry years. Aeration will also help to control the buildup of thatch, which is an organic layer that can reduce water from being absorbed into the ground.

Mulches. Mulches are essential in the Colorado climate. They reduce weed growth, keep roots protected and cool, and allow the soil to stay uncrusted. Mulches also hold water longer. There are organic and inorganic mulches available. The organic include wood grindings and bark chips. These are excellent for new plant beds. Inorganic mulches are rock and gravel and usually do not require replacement in the short term so they are lower maintenance.

Native grasses. Blue grass turf, which is very popular, looks good but requires a lot of water to stay healthy. Consider adding native grasses to the mix or use it entirely. These grasses include Buffalo Grass, Blue Grama Grass, and different types of Fescue. These grasses look good and will save water and money.

Common Problems

Putting large rotary heads in too small of an area. Rotary heads should only be used in areas with a diameter of 17 feet or larger.

Sprinklers do not overlap correctly. This condition will waste water by using too much in some areas and not enough in others. In general, spacing between sprinklers should be about 50 percent of the wetted diameter. So if a wetted diameter is 60 feet, sprinklers should be about 30 feet apart.

Using full-circle sprinklers on boundaries of irrigated area. Using this type of a head in this type of an area will waste water by sprinkling areas that don't need water, such as sidewalks and streets. Use part-circle sprinklers in these areas and make sure they are aimed correctly.

Wrong size pipe used. If the pipe is too small this can cause non-uniform application of water by reducing the water pressure through the system.

Drip systems on the same zone as sprinkler heads. Drip systems require slow and longer watering times. They would not be effective if they are on the same zone as sprinkler heads because they need longer scheduled watering times than sprinkler heads.

Improper adjustment of sprinkler heads. This wastes water and could damage buildings and house foundations