FOUR W’S – WHEN AND WHAT TO WATER IN THE WINTER

There is always a discussion about whether to water the lawn in the winter. The following hints might help in determining when and how to water in the winter.

Do grass and plants need water in the winter? Yes – plants more so than grass. Once the grass stops growing you can pretty much leave it alone. The plants and trees need a good dose of water about once a month.

How do I know when the grass has stopped growing? Good question. I noticed that my own lawn definitely slowed down mid-October, sometime after the first freeze. But since then it has grown a little. One suggestion is to check the color. Once the grass turns yellow and you’re only mowing to suck up leaves; it has pretty much stopped growing. Water it occasionally so it doesn’t feel so dry, but you’re not going to get it to grow anymore this season.

What time of day should I water? Contrary to our hints for summer watering, you should water in the winter mid to late morning. This way, if there was any frost last night, it has melted and the water has time to sink in before the possible freeze at night. It’s not a good idea to have wet leaves and plants when a hard freeze is coming. Remember the summer hints about watering in windy conditions. You may be wasting your time by watering the street or your neighbor’s lawn.

How much should I water? Enough for a good soaking. You want it to get down to the roots. Depending on your type of sprinkler head, 15-30 minutes should do it.

Should I use my irrigation system? This is a tricky one. The answer is – yes as long as you are smart about it. If you have already blown your system out with a compressor for the winter, you may not want to go through that again. However, if the alternative is a hose and moveable sprinkler that has to be moved around a lot, then …. After all – that’s why you put in the system in the first place. Just be sure to turn it off and drain it again that night.

Here are some important steps:
1. Fill the system slowly – watch for water hammer (pipes clanging).
2. Run it manually and shut it off when it is done.
3. Drain the system if the weatherman forecasts 30° F or less at night. Remember – his forecasts are for the City, and we are usually a little colder up here.
4. If the ground is frozen don’t use your system. Chances are it could be frozen too and by pushing pressure to it you could cause a leak.
5. Using a hose turned on low may be your best bet. Place it on the ground and give the roots a good soaking.
Hydrant Access

Donala Water & Sanitation District, in conjunction with Wescott Fire Protection District are asking for help from homeowners during Winter snow events. We ask that all vegetation and snow be cleared to a minimum of four feet in all directions of a fire hydrant for ease of access and use. This will help in the remote occurrence that the Fire Department may need to use the fire hydrant in an emergency. It will also assist the Water District when we may need to flush the hydrant for water quality issues and during the Spring to prepare for irrigation season. We also ask that if you notice a fire hydrant that needs a new coat of paint to contact the Water District office at 719-488-3603. Both Districts greatly appreciate any and all assistance.

Construction Activity Update

Recently the contractors hired by the District completed this year’s major water line replacement project on Gleneagle Drive. This was the second year in which the District was replacing the original water main, along with the service lines from the main to the stop box, in Gleneagle Drive. While there remain several areas which need to be completed, the major disruption in the actual road is complete. Next year we will continue to replace the aging water mains, we will be off Gleneagle and working on other, less traveled residential roads. We realize that working in the Gleneagle Drive right of way is inconvenient, what with the lane realignments, occasional detours, and bumpy temporary patches, we’re just as glad to have this project finished. We appreciated everyone’s patience during this work. When the schedule for construction for the 2020 projects is firmed up, we will post a notice on this newsletter, as well as our website, so you can see if you will be impacted by our water main replacement in 2020. During the construction of our projects, we do post updates on a weekly basis advising the readers as to what, and where, our work will be taking place. If necessary, we do update the website daily if there will be service outages or other special activities that our customers need to be aware of.

A Water Quote of Note

When you put your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last that has gone before and the first of what is still to come.
Leonardo da Vinci

From the Board of Directors, the staff of Donala and myself, we wish you a Happy Holiday Season.

Your General Manager,

Kip Peterson