

**WENATCHEE VALLEY STORMWATER TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

Chelan County

Paula Cox, P.E., Assistant County Engineer Jason Detamore, Environmental Coordinator
E-mail: paulah.cox@co.chelan.wa.us E-mail: Jason.detamore@co.chelan.wa.us
Stephen Wancho, Designer
E-mail: Stephen.wancho@co.chelan.wa.us
Phone: (509) 667-6415
Address: 316 Washington Street, Suite 402, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Web Site : http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/pw/pw_stormwater_npdes.html

City of East Wenatchee

Lori Barnett, Community Development Director Brandon Mauseth, Infrastructure & Operations Manager
E-mail: LBarnett@east-wenatchee.com E-mail: bmauseth@east-wenatchee.com
Phone: (509) 884-5396 Phone: (509) 884-1829
Address: 271 9th Street NE, East Wenatchee, WA 98802
Web Site : www.east-wenatchee.com

City of Wenatchee

Jessica Shaw
Utilities & Environmental Manager
E-mail: jshaw@wenatcheewa.gov
Phone: (509) 888-3225
Address: P.O. Box 519, Wenatchee, WA 98807
Web Site : <http://www.wenatcheewa.gov/wvstac>

Douglas County

Jennifer Lange, P.E.
Assistant County Engineer
E-mail: jlange@co.douglas.wa.us
Phone: (509)-884-7173
Address: 140 19th Street NW, Suite A, East Wenatchee, WA 98801
Web Site : <http://www.douglascountywa.net/departments/swu/default.asp>

Washington State Department of Ecology

Terry Wittmeier, Municipal Stormwater Specialist
E-mail: twit461@ecy.wa.gov
Phone: (509)574-3991
Address: 15 W. Yakima Avenue, Suite 200, Yakima, WA 98902
Web Sites: **Washington State Department of Ecology:**
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/eastern_manual/index.html
Environmental Protection Agency: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/index.cfm>





LAWN WATERING

Overwatering is a problem throughout areas of Wenatchee and can cause significant damage to roads and underground utilities. For example, some homeowners overwater to the extent that the water runs across the sidewalk and into catch basins in the street. These catch basins are designed to catch the flow of stormwater. In some areas these catch basins drain to a stormwater retention pond. In the pond, irrigation water can saturate the ground and reduce the rate at which rainwater and snowmelt can infiltrate.

Another problem with overwatering is the potential to cause erosion below the sidewalks and streets. This ultimately may cause potholes in the road as the road surface shifts to fill voids below the surface.

While most people think a lack of water will damage the lawn, overwatering may cause more damage. It is easy to overwater a turf area. Some potential consequences of overwatering include increased crabgrass, increased disease inci-



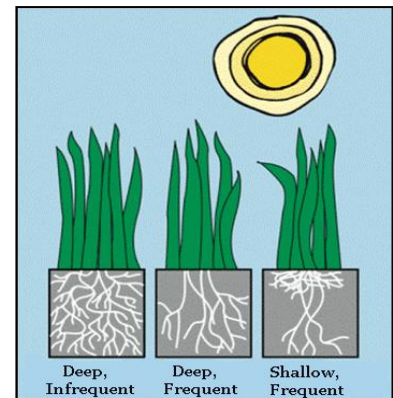
dence, shallow rooting, waste of a valuable resource, and higher water bills. In addition, overwatering can cause fertilizers to be flushed away from fast draining, sandy soils resulting in potential groundwater contamination. In clay soils, standing water can displace oxygen, suffocating soil-dwelling microbes and leading to poor soil quality. On the other hand, daily, light irrigation can cause problems with shallow rooting and encourages crabgrass. Water only deeply enough to moisten the desired root zone of the grass, and don't water again until the grass begins showing signs of stress.

To maintain a healthy, dense, green, actively growing turf, it is essential to water a lawn during dry periods. The easiest way to tell if moisture stress is present is to look for footprints on your lawn. When you can see footprints on your lawn, meaning your lawn doesn't spring back up after you have walked across it, water your lawn. Do not water until you see footprints again. Other signs a lawn needs to be watered include a bluish gray color or wilted, folded, or curled leaves.

Water when the sun will cause the least evaporation. Watering an established turf during midday is not very effective. A large amount of water is lost through evaporation, making it difficult to thoroughly wet the soil. Although not recommended, midday watering does not cause the turf to burn. Watering in the early morning is best. The next best practice is to water in the evening, but do it early

enough so the grass is not wet overnight. Grass that remains wet for extended periods can be susceptible to fungal growth.

Cool season lawns, like fescues and bluegrass, naturally go dormant in the heat of the summer. If you practice good watering techniques your healthy lawn will go dormant in the summer and only needs watering every 3 weeks if there has been no rain. In September it will come out of dormancy as thick and green as ever.



Decide before summer heat and drought conditions arrive to either water lawns consistently as needed throughout the season, or let lawns go dormant as conditions turn hot and dry. Do not switch back and forth. In other words, don't let the grass turn totally brown, then apply enough water to green it up, then let the grass go dormant again. Breaking the lawns dormancy actually drains large amounts of food reserves from the plant.

Planning ahead can help you take good care of your lawn and conserve one of the most valuable resources, our drinking water supply.