

## Lawns guzzle water



A huge amount of valuable potable water can be saved by the use of alternative water resources for the irrigation of your lawn. However, it is preferable to keep your lawn area to a minimum in order to save water.

By assessing how much lawn you actually need you will find it possible to reduce the lawn area without reducing your enjoyment. This would be a good idea as one's water consumption can be reduced through paving, gravelling or both, especially where people frequently walk.

## Please note



Borehole/wellpoint water and other alternative resources are for non-potable use only. Due to health risks and quality standards the domestic consumption thereof is not allowed under any circumstances.

## Conclusion



Water is a strategic, precious and scarce resource and it is the responsibility of all the citizens of Cape Town to minimise the use of water in our gardens and to look at alternative water resources such as boreholes and wellpoints, grey water re-use, rainwater harvesting and by applying water-wise gardening practices in an effort to conserve our valuable potable water.

 **Be Smart!**

 **Save our City!**

 **Save our Environment!**

 **Save Potable Water!**

 **Be part of the solution and install a alternative water resource today!**

## Useful information



### CITY OF CAPE TOWN CALL CENTRE

Tel: 0860 103 089

Water conservation tips and information, alternative water usage, bursts, blockages and water by-law transgressions

### BOREHOLE WATER ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Tel: 011 447 0851

For a list of borehole contractors in your area

### DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS

Tel: 012 336 8125/8046

Aquifer/groundwater quality information

### KIRSTENBOSCH BOTANICAL GARDEN

Tel: 021 799 8783

Water-wise gardening tips/information

### WATER BY-LAW

Government Gazette 6378: 01/09/06

### OTHER PAMPHLETS IN THIS RANGE:

- Boreholes/wellpoints (pamphlet no 2 of 4)
- Greywater re-use (pamphlet no 3 of 4)
- Rainwater harvesting (pamphlet no 4 of 4)

**City of Cape Town Call Centre:  
0860 103 089**

SMS: 31373 (up to 160 characters)

E-mail: [WaterTOC@capetown.gov.za](mailto:WaterTOC@capetown.gov.za)



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# WATER AND SANITATION



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## INTRODUCTION



## Alternative Water Resources

Pamphlet no 1 of 4



**Be part of the solution  
Our water, our pride**

## Introduction

Water is a scarce resource in our country and it has been predicted that the Western Cape will be the first region to run out of water unless steps are taken to manage the demand for water more efficiently.

The City of Cape Town has invested in the development of a comprehensive Water Conservation and Demand Management Strategy. It is within this strategy that the City has identified the need to promote alternative water resources and technologies, with special focus on groundwater resources.

### Did you know?

Our gardens consume between 30% and 50% of all domestic water used. The use of alternative water resources for irrigation will take the pressure off our potable water resources.

## Boreholes/wellpoints

Garden boreholes/wellpoints play an important role in the city's water supply infrastructure. Through the use of private boreholes/wellpoints for irrigation purposes the city's water supply burden is lightened, with considerable water and financial savings as well as adding value to your property.

The main use of groundwater within the City is for garden irrigation and for the filling up of pools. In the latter case the water must be tested first to find out if it is suitable for filling your pool.

The majority of areas in the Western Cape have a relatively good underground water supply and consequently it is easy to locate a borehole/wellpoint site that will provide sufficient water for use in a domestic garden.

The fact that Cape Town receives winter rain makes it an ideal candidate for groundwater abstraction during the hot and dry summer months.

For more information on boreholes/wellpoints please refer to our pamphlet no 2 in the series.

- 1 Greywater may be successfully used for garden irrigation.
- 2 You can obtain 500 litres of water if 5mm of rain is collected on a 100m<sup>2</sup> roof.
- 3 Plants that need less water have grey, waxy or hairy leaves and have lots of oil in their leaves.
- 4 The majority of areas in the Western Cape have a relatively good underground water supply and consequently it is easy to locate a borehole/well-point site that will provide sufficient water for use in a domestic garden.

## Greywater re-use

Greywater is defined as water from baths, showers and hand basins. Wastewater discharged by kitchen sinks and washing machines (except if environmentally friendly laundry detergents are used) is excluded due to its high solid content and the negative impact of softeners and other undesirable chemicals on the environment.

Greywater can be successfully used for garden irrigation. There are many greywater systems available on the market, some of which are very economical and easy to install.

For more information on greywater re-use please refer to our pamphlet no 3 in the series.



## Rainwater harvesting

Collecting and using your own water through rainwater harvesting is your insurance policy against short term water outages. You can obtain 500 ℓ of water if 5 mm of rain is collected on a 100 m<sup>2</sup> roof.

A rainwater tank may be connected for the use of garden irrigation, washing, cleaning, toilet flushing or topping up the pool. Rainwater tanks may also be plumbed to feed toilet cisterns and so reduce the considerable amount of water used daily for flushing.

The use of rainwater tanks in summer rainfall areas can be more beneficial than those used in winter rainfall areas. However a 5 000 ℓ tank used primarily for flushing the toilet in winter rainfall areas could save up to 15% annually.

For more information on rainwater harvesting please refer to pamphlet no 4 in the series.

## Water-wise gardening

Where houses have gardens, these regularly consume as much as 40 to 60% of all the water used in the home. This is treated, drinkable water (that costs money to purify) and we need to think carefully about using an alternative water resource in the garden.

By combining the use of groundwater and other alternative water sources with water-wise gardening you can achieve substantial water savings. If you plant your garden with indigenous shrubs and flowers it will require less water, almost no fertilisers or pesticides, and look good all year round.

The City of Cape Town is also doing its part in an effort to conserve water. City Parks are replanting traffic islands, intersections and other focal areas with hardy, indigenous 'evergreens' that provide permanent beauty, and need minimal water and maintenance, thus saving the City millions of rands.

In order to conserve water in the garden, and still have a good display, plants that can withstand prolonged periods without watering should be grouped together.

For water efficiency, compost and mulch twice a year to keep the plants happy and help retain soil moisture. Stones and shells may be used where high winds blow away bark.

Generally, water-wise plants can be recognised by their leaves. Plants that need less water have grey, waxy or hairy leaves and have lots of oil in their leaves.