

## Planetary Wellbeing

### Cut Pollution & Toxicity

- Cleaning & Laundry
- Green Carwash
- Low-Toxin Manufacturing
- Natural Garden & Lawn Care
  - Organic & Sustainable Agriculture
- Pest Control
- Plant-Based Eating
- Zero Emissions
- Zero Toxin Parenting

### Ensure Animal Wellness

### Guard Water Resources

- Ocean Awareness
- Protect Biodiversity
- Reduce Resource Consumption
- Save Energy & Climate

## Summer Nights



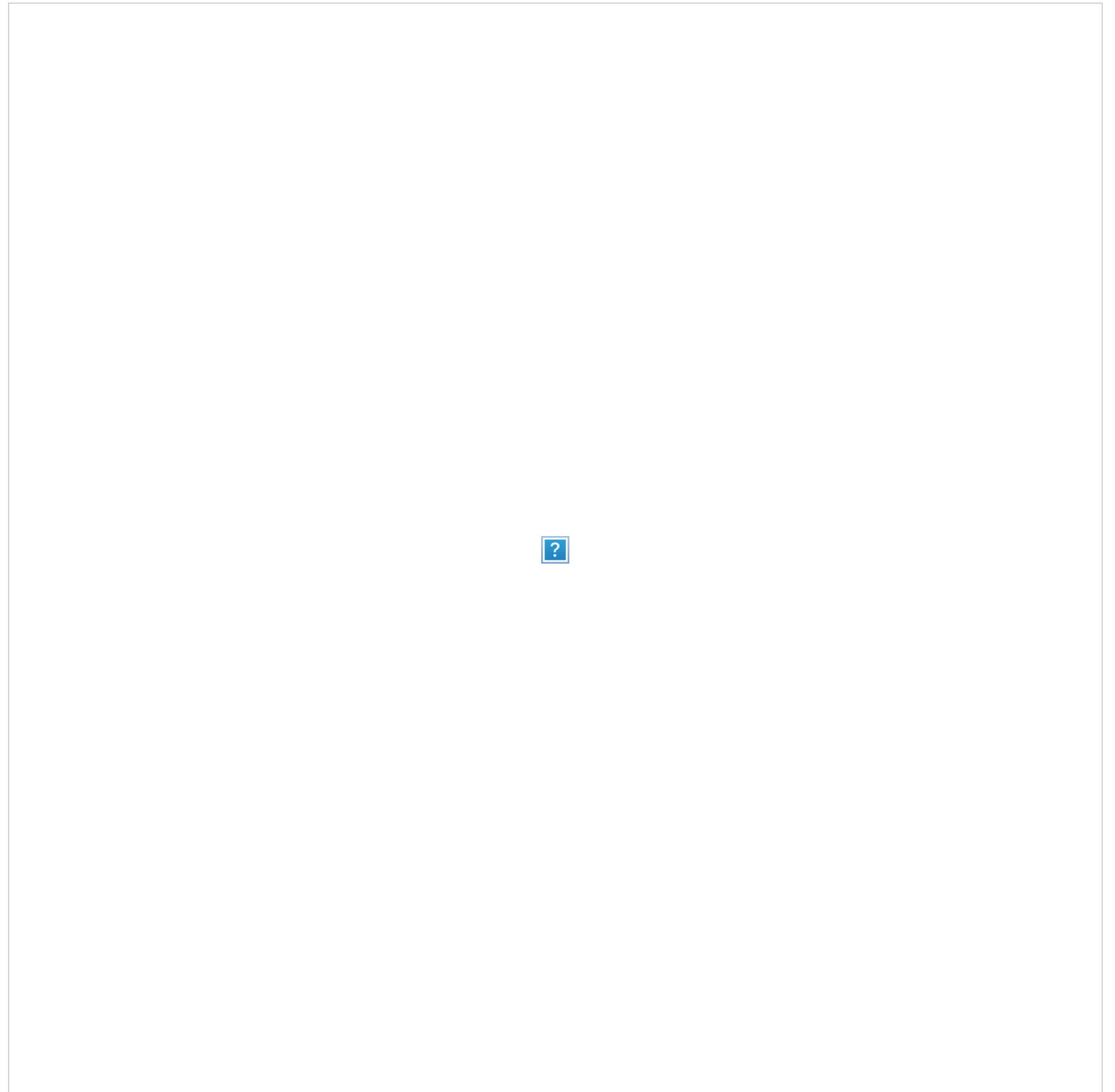
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## Train your Lawn to Require Less Water

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All homeowners want their yards to be lush and green during the summer months, but watering seems wasteful and sometimes doesn't work at all. Luckily, there are all kinds of things you can do to minimize the need for lawn watering, from training it to need less to making sure you water it in the right way when it does need it. This Hearts guide will give you tips and resources that will get your lawn as green as you'd like it to be, without wasting so much precious H2O.



## Quick Facts: Lawn Watering and Water Waste

- **1/3 of residential water use:** That's how much Americans use for landscaping and lawn watering, to the tune of 7 billion gallons per day.<sup>[i]</sup>
- **10,000 gallons per lawn:** Thirsty American lawns drink that much water annually in addition to rainwater.<sup>[ii]</sup>
- **Lawns are the biggest irrigated crop:** NASA, using Census data and satellite imagery, determined that lawns are the single largest irrigated crop in the US, outstripping corn by a factor of three. The fact that grass does absorb carbon dioxide simply does not make up for the huge impact of lawn irrigation on water usage.<sup>[iii]</sup>
- **50% wasted water:** Irrigation systems that spray water into the air in tiny drops result in as much as 50% evaporation before it even has a chance to get down to the grass roots.<sup>[iv]</sup>

## Take Action! Reduce Lawn Watering

1. **Find out what it's costing you:** If you pay for your municipal water supply, irrigating comes with a real cost. Check out the information from Danny Lipford's Today's Homeowner website at [How to Calculate Lawn Irrigation Water Usage & Costs](#).
2. **Tough love for your lawn:** Train your lawn to need less water by taking one season where you only water your lawn when the blades start to curl, which is what precedes turning brown. Weeds love a daily watering – don't do it!
3. **Do the walk test:** One way to tell if your lawn needs watering is to walk on the grass and then look and see if your footprints remain a few minutes later.
4. **Know when to water the lawn:** Watering during the hottest part of the day means a lot of it will evaporate, which is just wasted water. The best time to water your lawn is between the hours of 4 am and 10 am.
5. **A little drip goes a long ways:** Drip irrigation for lawn watering can save you a lot of water and money. Our guide to installing a simple [drip irrigation system](#) will get you started.
6. **Aerate compacted soil:** Compacted soil can prevent water from getting quickly down to the roots of your grass. Find out more at [Water Saving Tips for Your Lawn](#).
7. **Develop healthy soil:** Healthy soil will make for healthy grass, and healthy grass needs less watering. The most

important thing is to fertilizer less – our guide to using [less lawn fertilizer](#) will show you how.

8. **Plant native grasses:** [Native grasses](#) that originally come from the area in which you live are already suited for the local climate in terms of both temperature and rainfall. By choosing a native grass, you should only have to water your lawn when rainfall is below normal.

## Dig Deeper: Less Water

- If you don't think there's a water crisis, take a look at The Root's article [Water Shortage: 6 Things to Know](#). And if that doesn't do it, you might also check out MSNBC's story, [Crisis feared as US water supplies dry up](#). You'll think twice before watering your lawn after you read it.
- Your soil type has a significant impact on lawn watering. Find out more about this from the City of Toronto's great web page, [Lawn Watering and Soil Type](#).
- Check out Water Use it Wisely's [Landscape Watering Guide – Lawn Watering](#).
- Read about the need for good irrigation policy via [A Plea for a Coordinated National Water Policy](#).

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### + References

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