



THE NEIGHBORS POND vs. YOUR GRASS

Which takes more water to maintain, your lush grass or a flowing pond?

First, we must make some assumptions related to pond size, irrigation efficiency and evaporation rates. For the purpose of this example we are using an average 11 ft. x 16 ft. pond with a 10 ft. long stream, an evaporation rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ " per day and 50 percent irrigation efficiency (it will take 1" of watering to cover the lawn with $\frac{1}{2}$ "). When a pond is installed much more turf is removed than just the 11' x 16' pond area. Most homeowners will include a bermed area (stream/weir fall), a seating area, as well as multiple new planting areas which can be drip irrigated much more efficiently than turf. We are assuming the total sod removed (or not re-installed after the pond is built) will be 3X's the pond area (396 sq.ft.) and the pond surface will take up 75 % of the 11 x 16 footprint, or 132 sq.ft. of surface water. The pond water's edge has boulders, river rock, pebbles and the likes.

SO WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING MATH; GRASS vs. POND

Gallons of Water Required for Grass (every 3 days) above ground irrigation:
1" water per 3 days, so 1 divided by 12 (inches), $.0833 \times 396$ square feet $\times 7.5$ gallons per cubic foot gives a water loss of 247.5 gallons every 3 days.

Gallon of Water required for a Pond (every 3 days)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " water loss per day $\times 3$ days, 1.5 divided by 12 (inches) $.125 \times 132$ square feet $\times 7.5$ gallons per cubic foot = 123.8 gallons every 3 days, a 50 % water savings versus grass!

As with any example, your results may vary. This example clearly shows that replacing part of your lawn with a pond will increase water conversation.

One home owner reported a 28% decrease in overall water usage after adding a new pond/stream and lush plantings this past year. And the family still took their weekly bath, kidding!!

So let ATS build your water feature, and save water in Colorado !!