

DROUGHT

and what it really means

A drought is a period of drier-than-normal conditions that results in water-related problems. When rainfall is less than normal for several weeks, months or years, the flow of streams and rivers declines, water levels in lakes and reservoirs fall, and the depth to water in wells increases. If dry weather persists and water-supply problems develop, the dry period can become a drought.

WATERS RIGHTS

Guaranteed VS Right to Access

According to the Idaho Dept. of Water Resources, "A water right is authorization to use water in a prescribed manner, not to own the water itself." All irrigation customers pay for the right to access the water, but it is not a guarantee of how much water will be available. Our water supply is completely dependent on conditions outside our control such as temperature, precipitation and snowmelt received.

WATER LESS AND KEEP THE GREEN

Lawn Care Tips from Jos Zamzow



Build Your Lawn's Drought Muscle

When grass is slightly drought-stressed, the plants are encouraged to send roots down deeper in the soil in search of water. Your lawn becomes "water addicted" when it's being watered more frequently because it's encouraging the roots to stay near the surface. **The key to start building the drought muscle is at the very beginning of the season.** Leave your sprinkler system off entirely and manually turn it on for a good drink. Then wait to water again until the grass looks wilted, continue this pattern clear until early May.



Professional Recommendations

- A good guideline is to apply one inch (1") of water per week until Memorial Day and then up to two inches (2") per week during the hot summer months.
- The best time to water your lawn is when you have the most pressure because our irrigation is a pressurized system. If the majority of people are watering at the same time, there will be less pressure available to water. While watering in the evening or morning is generally best, if pressure is reduced, consider watering at an alternative time.
- Water your lawn on an odd/even address cycle. If your house number is an odd number you will water on odd days of the month and vice versa for even days; remember to focus on how much you are watering rather than the number of days watering.



Calibrate Your Watering System

Typical homeowners measure their water in time, making it hard to know how much water your sprinkler is actually putting out. Zamzows suggests performing a **water audit** in the spring. To do this, place three to five measuring cups in your lawn and run your water for 15 minutes. This will tell you how much water you are putting down in that area in a given time.

Reminders:

- Many homeowners have never adjusted their sprinkler system since its installation. Please remember that established lawns do not need as much water as new lawns.
- Please do not waste water on sidewalks or driveways.



Mowing Tips

Set your mower deck one notch below the highest setting. Longer grass blades will help shade the ground, reducing evaporation. Also, if you sharpen your mower blades it will help the grass heal faster and minimize the water loss from the cut.

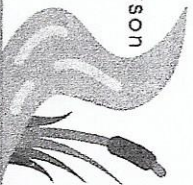
IRRIGATION 101

WHERE DOES OUR IRRIGATION WATER COME FROM?

Nampa's irrigation water is primarily surface water supplied by Nampa-Meridian, Pioneer and Boise-Kuna Irrigation Districts. Pumps draw 54 million gallons of irrigation water each day from the canals and ditches to provide pressurized service to the city's customers.

HOW LONG IS IRRIGATION SEASON?

The length of the irrigation season is dependent on water in the reservoirs and canals.



SNOWPACK

HOW DOES IT IMPACT OUR WATER?

- Snowpack is very important for our ecosystems, residents and agriculture community. The snowpack conditions determine our irrigation water for the year.
- Snow accumulates in the winter (snowpack), thaws in the spring and summer months and runs off the mountains (snowmelt), and fills our reservoirs.
- With the increase in temperatures, little precipitation and snowfall decline, the dry soil is absorbing the below-average snowpack which causes little runoff, resulting in drought seasons.

HELPFUL WEBSITES



More information on Nampa's Irrigation System & Resources

cityofnampa.us/irrigation

Watering Tips from the EPA

epa.gov/watersense/watering-tips



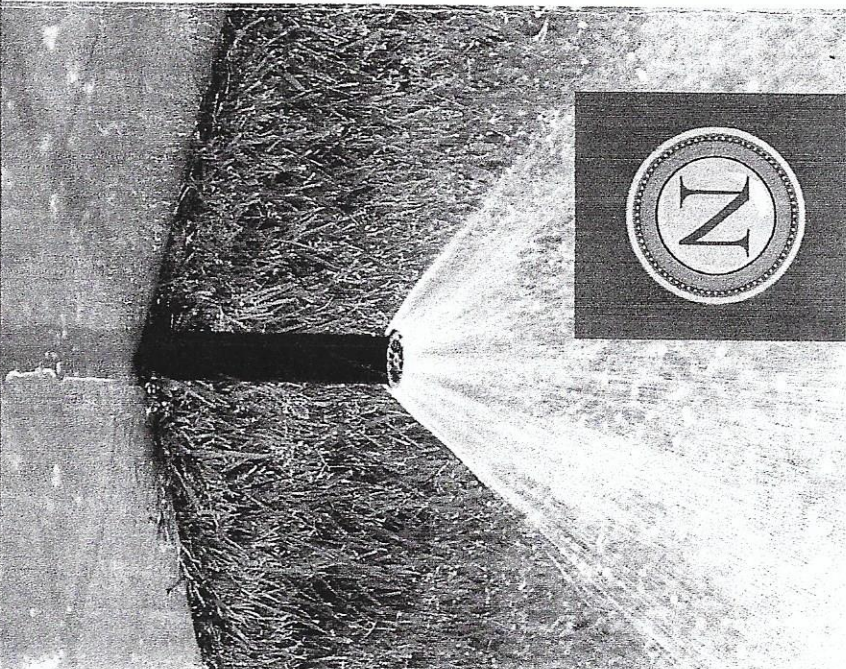
University of Idaho Drought Resources

uidaho.edu/extension/drought

LET'S BE #2CWATERWISE!

QUESTIONS?

Irrigation Related: (208) 468-5860
Billing: (208) 468-5711, option 5



CITY OF NAMPA WATERING WISELY

#2CWATERWISE

As we prepare for Nampa's 2022 irrigation season, this brochure will provide you with facts and tips on watering your lawn so we can collectively extend our irrigation season this year and in future years!

2022