

Green Home and Garden Tip #2

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Water. Why conserve water? Only 3% of all the water on this planet is fresh water. Of all the water, if it were represented by a gallon jug, 1 tablespoon would represent the fresh usable water. Talk about Liquid gold! Let's not waste it. Do not let it run off when watering the yard. Once it starts going in the gutter, shut it off. Cycle the watering, give it time to absorb before adding more. Water more deeply but less often to give the roots a chance to go down deeper in the ground. Frequent, light watering encourages roots to grow short or stay close to the surface. They dry out faster in this situation. This in turn becomes a big problem when a long drought ridden summer occurs and water rationing is instigated. Put in more flower beds with more drought-tolerant Texan native plants, and cut back on the lawn area, the biggest water guzzler. (A 25ft. by 40 ft. needs 10,000 gallons of water each summer.) Water early in the morning so less is lost to evaporation

The Texas Master Naturalists is a group of informed volunteers who are interested in learning about and educating others about the area of Texas where we live and with preserving our natural heritage. We are co-sponsored by the Texas Cooperative Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife. For more information about our group, log on to gcmn.tamuedu or www.coastalprairie.org.

The Green Home and Garden Workshop is an ongoing project co-sponsored by the Gulf Coast chapter and the Coastal Prairies chapter of Texas Master Naturalists. Our mission is to interest and inform people about safe and eco-friendly ways to garden and maintain their homes We have a workshop event once a year. The next workshop will be held on February 16, 2008.