

8 ONLY APPLY AS MUCH WATER AS YOUR SOIL CAN HOLD

Soil can only hold a limited amount of water before the water drains below the root zone or will run off the saturated soil surface.

💧 Light sandy soils hold less water than heavy clay soils.

💧 Determine how long you can run your irrigation system to minimize water lost.



9 USE A SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING DEVICE OR CLIMATE INFORMATION TO DETERMINE WHEN TO IRRIGATE

Often when the surface of the soil is dry there are still water reserves lower in the root zone that the crop can draw upon.

💧 By monitoring soil moisture within the root zone it may be possible to postpone irrigation for a few days.

💧 Use the current climate and a five day forecast when scheduling irrigation.



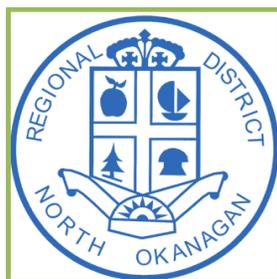
10 ADJUST WATERING PARAMETERS UNDER WINDY CONDITIONS

When operating gun systems under windy conditions, lower the trajectory level and/or narrow the spacing to achieve the best uniformity possible.

Learn how to adjust the spacing based on wind speed.



Think water.
Every drop counts!



Greater Vernon Water Utility
9848 Aberdeen Road
Vernon, BC V1B 2K9
Phone: 250-542-8410
Fax: 250-550-3703
Web: www.rdno.ca

Thank you

to British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture,
Food, and Fisheries for these water saving tips.

For more information visit
www.farmwest.com



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ways to

save water

on the farm

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Water

10 WAYS TO SAVE WATER ON THE FARM

1 REFRAIN FROM IRRIGATING DURING HOT/WINDY PERIODS OF THE DAY

During the peak of the irrigation season it may not be possible to wait due to the logistics of covering the entire farm.

During the early and late part of the irrigation season there is more flexibility in planning irrigation times—the water savings can be realized in May, June, and September.



2 KNOW YOUR CROPS' WATER NEEDS

It is possible to determine how much water your crop is using by evapo-transpiration and applying a crop coefficient.

- This will help you determine the amount of water that is taken up from the soil.
- Irrigation should then only be long enough to replace the lost moisture.

Agriculture and livestock account for 80% of water use in the Okanagan!

If you have a water meter installed, the irrigation system can be checked by turning off the system and monitoring the meter to see if it is still running. Also look for perpetual wet spots along the irrigation line.



4 KNOW YOUR LIVESTOCKS WATER NEEDS

Never save water by limiting your animals drinking water, but pay attention when filling containers. A water tub that is accidentally left to run over while filling with a hose is responsible for the loss of 5 gallons of water per minute.

Install floats on water tanks that will shut off water supply when the tub is full.

5 SELECT A MORE EFFICIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Select systems which are not as susceptible to evaporation to increase irrigation efficiency.

- Using sprinklers instead of a stationary or traveling gun can reduce water by 5-15%.
- Using a drip system instead of a sprinkler can save up to 20% !

3 REPAIR LEAKS IN THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM

6 KNOW HOW MUCH WATER YOU USE

Understanding the amount of water you need on your farm is the first step in water conservation.

- A water meter can be used to monitor water consumption by livestock, household, irrigation, and other needs.
- Changes in consumption can indicate problems like leaks which should be fixed immediately.
- Noticing a reduction of water use by cattle can also be an indication of herd health problems.

7 IMPROVE SPRINKLER IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY

To achieve peak performance the irrigation system must be properly designed.

- Replace old nozzles.
- Run the system at the designed operating pressure and ensure sprinklers are properly spaced. This will improve efficiency and prevent over irrigation of some areas while trying to cover dry spots.
- Check the pressure at the farthest and highest point of the lateral line. The acceptable pressure variation along the lateral line should be +/- 10% (no more than 20% variance).

