



Drought Watch Declared for Lovettsville. Help us Conserve Water.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has issued a “Drought Watch” for the Northern Areas of Virginia including Loudoun County. The Town Manager has followed the recommendation from DEQ and declared a Drought Watch for Lovettsville. The Town Manager has initiated Stage 1 of the Authority to Regulate Water Use during an Emergency from the Town Code which states *“When climatic conditions may create a water supply emergency, the town manager is authorized to declare a drought watch and call on the general population to employ prudent restraint in water usage, and to conserve water voluntarily by whatever methods are available.”*

The good news is that Town has been monitoring our water supply wells and they are all operating within typical operating range. However, one well is operating similar to how the well usually performs at the end of the drier summer months. Seeing this decreased performance in March, validates the DEQ identification of a mild drought. Although this well is still within typical operating range, we must be cautious about entering into summer with the well already demonstrating some stress. Therefore, the Town of Lovettsville is asking all users to be aware of their water use and where possible make simple nonrestrictive changes to their water use habits to help conserve water. Some simple options are listed below. You can Google “Water Conservation” online for more tips and ideas!



Choose not to water your lawn. Your grass will turn green again as soon as it rains! Loudoun Water reports that up to 65% of the water they produce goes to water lawns. And 60% of people overwater. If you must water to establish new seed or sod, adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation. Use a tuna fish can to avoid overwatering. When the can is filled, you have watered enough.



Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month. Try capturing the water from your shower in a container when you are waiting for the water to warm up and use it for watering plants or flushing the toilet.



Take shorter showers - a 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water. A bath uses 50 gallons.



Shut off water while brushing your teeth and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.



Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. Save up to 1,000 gallons a month. When replacing your washer consider a front load which uses a lot less water.



Water plants only when necessary or make a rain barrel at the rain barrel workshop and collect water from your roof during every rain to use for your garden. You will also get a discount on your next water bill.



Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, request a toilet leak detection kit from the Town office. Add the dye tablet to the tank and if color seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing the toilet or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.



Do not use warm water to thaw frozen foods. Instead thaw overnight in refrigerator.



Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce your next water bill!