



Wildflower Enviro Lawn

Instead of grass or clover, plant a mix of drought tolerant flowers and slow growing grasses. Local nurseries can offer advice on best choices for our climate and your property.

- ✓ Attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies
- ✓ Never mow again!
- ✓ Little to no water required
- ✓ Ideal for areas you don't want to maintain

Water advisories

The RDCK will periodically issue Water Quality Advisories or Boil Water Notices for users on RDCK systems. These notifications are issued if there is high turbidity or serious health risk associated with tap water.

Sign up for notifications by text message or phone call by calling 1-833-223-2662 or email your name and contact information to WaterFinance@rdck.bc.ca

Learn more

rdck.ca/water

Contact us

Water emergencies (24/7):
250-352-1504

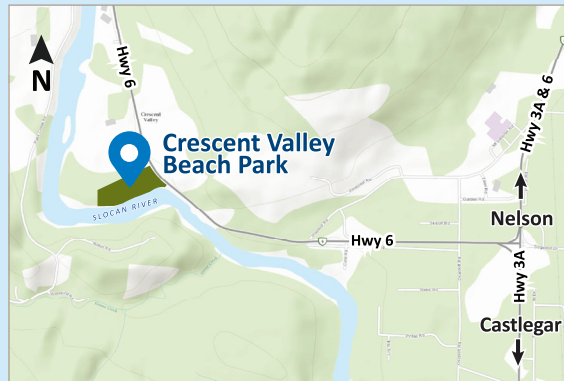
General enquiries:
1-800-268-7325 ext 8171 or 250-352-8171
watercontact@rdck.bc.ca



WaterSmart Strategies

Need some inspiration?

Visit the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden at Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park, 1271 Highway 6 for water-saving ideas, and to see examples of native, fescue and wildflower planted gardens.



Alternatives to Thirsty Lawns



Why WaterSmart?

British Columbia has a seemingly abundant supply of water: from mountain snow packs it flows down our rivers, and into our lakes and eventually the ocean. In BC, we use about 490 litres average per person per day, and the Canadian average is 330 litres per person per day (Province of BC, Living Water Smart). The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) and Columbia Basin Trust, together with member municipalities, supports and facilitates water conservation and source protection efforts to help assure the availability of clean water for human and ecological needs.

Best practices for a WaterSmart lawn

Lush, green lawns are traditionally a hallmark of a well-kept home. But keeping that lawn green, especially during our dry summer months, can be a lot of work, is costly, and takes a considerable amount of our precious water reserves. More and more, people are embracing alternatives to green lawns such as different planting schemes or letting the green turn gold.

Water conservation stages

The RDCK issues notifications on water and water use restrictions in RDCK water systems, usually during dry summer months in order to conserve water reserves. Restrictions are described from Stage 1 to Stage 4 and can limit or restrict lawn and garden watering.



Tall Fescue

Festuca arundinace is a type of grass that stands up to traffic, drought, cold, shade, pets, and mowing. It is tougher than conventional lawn grasses like Kentucky blue grass, but it still makes a lush green lawn. Use Tall Fescue to overseed an existing lawn, seed a new area, or mix with a wildflower or micro-clover blend. Sow in the spring or fall (fall is recommended). Tall Fescue requires mowing approximately every two weeks in the growing season.

- ✓ Drought resistant
- ✓ Grows in part shade
- ✓ Stands up to pets
- ✓ Cold resistant
- ✓ Tougher than grass

Check out these other WaterSmart brochures:

- Planting Drought Resistant Landscapes
- Better Outdoor Irrigation
- Water Conservation Stages



Micro-clover BEST WaterSmart choice

Micro-clover is an excellent option for lawn areas, either together with your existing lawn or on its own. Micro-clover grows close to the ground, eliminating or greatly reducing the need to mow. And it requires far less water than grass lawns, which means it will stay green all summer long.

- ✓ Stays green all summer long
- ✓ Likes the shade
- ✓ Drought resistant
- ✓ Uses less water than lawns
- ✓ Doesn't need much mowing: after three mowings, micro-clover stays at that height
- ✓ Fixes nitrogen in the soil, eliminating the need for fertilizers
- ✓ Discourages weeds
- ✓ Attracts pollinators
- ✓ Resistant to dog urine patches
- ✓ Immune to disease
- ✓ Repels common lawn insects
- ✓ Tough enough for children and pets

Over-seeding:

- 1 Prepare your grass lawn by slowly mowing 5-8cm high (about 2-3 inches) grass to about 25mm (1 inch).
- 2 Sow micro-clover seeds in early spring (2 weeks before the last frost date) or fall (4 weeks before first frost date). Ideally, sow the day before a week of rain is in the forecast. Micro-clover seeds are pelleted, which makes it easy to distribute them over your existing lawn or any type of soil.
- 3 Keep the lawn moist during the first week after seeding.



Overseeding with soil and grass seeds.

Maintenance:

Year 1:

Lightly water during dry weather only. Be patient as the clover creeps into bare spots on your lawn.

Year 2 and onward:

Sit back and enjoy your green lawn! Clover needs very little maintenance. Mow if it gets too high. Fertilize every two to three years (only if necessary) with a slow-release low nitrogen fertilizer. Flowers will appear in the second year – if you don't want flowers, mow more often. When you mow, leave the clippings on the lawn.