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Have a Healthy, Green and waterSmart Landscape This Summer

ATLANTA (July 14, 2009) – Your landscape expands your living space beyond four walls and is the perfect setting for summer get-togethers. But did you know that you can have a healthy landscape without extravagant supplemental watering?

While watering restrictions are eased, waterSmartSM reminds residents that using water wisely is important year round, regardless of climate conditions. By following easy waterSmart tips, residents can maintain a healthier greener landscape, save water, save time and save money.

- ◆ **Water at night or in the early morning** hours from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m. to maximize effectiveness and prevent water loss from evaporation in the heat of the day.
- ◆ **Lawns, plants, and shrubs need only one inch of water** every 7 to 10 days to remain healthy. To determine one inch of water, place a small shallow pan in the path of your lawn sprinkler. Monitor the time that it takes to fill the pan to a one inch depth. Use this as a guide for each sprinkler in your yard. If water begins to run off before one inch is collected, turn off the water and allow the soil to absorb the surface water before returning to finish the one inch accumulation.
- ◆ **Water slowly and deeply** so the soil absorbs water 6" to 8" deep.
- ◆ **Use more efficient irrigations systems**, such as a soaker hose, or drip irrigation. Use an automatic time controller and attach a rainfall sensor to turn off the irrigation system if significant rainfall has occurred.
- ◆ **Place rain barrels** under downspouts to collect water that can be used to hydrate your landscape without turning on a faucet. Be sure to place screens over your rain barrel to keep out debris such as pine needles and leaves.
- ◆ **Proper mulch** is the key to preventing water loss from your soil, reducing the need for supplemental irrigation and finishing off the overall attractiveness of your landscape. Apply approximately two inches of mulch, or five inches of pine straw, under ornamental plants in the landscape (avoid applying too much mulch because it encourages shallow roots).

For more information on how to conserve water every day please visit www.waterSmart.net.

About waterSmart

The waterSmartSM program was initiated by the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) in 2000 to educate their service area residents of all ages about the importance of indoor and outdoor water conservation and to help encourage sustainable, year-round conservation, regardless of climate conditions. The CCMWA is in its ninth year of providing the waterSmart program to the community. For more information on water conservation and waterSmart, visit www.waterSmart.net.

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