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## Stage 1 Drought - What to Know Before You Water

Warm spring weather has arrived early this year, but the watering season has not. Thornton is currently under [Stage 1 drought restrictions](#). Bringing lawns out of dormancy too early is unnecessary and will create early demands on our reservoirs and water treatment systems. Hand watering with a hose before May is allowed. For more information, read the [Thornton Stage 1 Drought Rules and Regulations](#).

**All Thornton Water customers must follow these mandatory outdoor watering rules:**

- Limit lawn watering to two days per week throughout the summer. You can pick which two days.
- No lawn watering between 10 a.m and 6 p.m.
- Water vegetable gardens and other gardens as needed.
- Occasional hand-watering of dry lawn areas is allowed. Hose must be attended during hand-watering.

# Thornton is in Stage 1 Drought



Wait to water until **May**

In May, water lawns **2 days per week**. You can choose your days

No lawn watering from **10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

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Once lawn watering begins in May, follow the [Thornton Watering Guide](#) and use the [cycle and soak method](#) to help water soak into roots and reduce runoff. Thornton residents can also sign up for a [free Slow the Flow sprinkler consultation with Resource Central](#), where experts come to your home to help identify leaks, improve efficiency, and optimize your sprinkler system for the season.

## Watering Tips for Trees, Shrubs, and Gardens

Trees and shrubs may need supplemental water during extended dry periods, especially if they are young or newly planted (under two years old).

When watering trees:

- Apply water slowly at the edge of the tree canopy, also known as the drip line, where the most active roots are located.
- Provide eight to ten gallons of water for each inch of the tree's diameter.
- Water trees approximately once every two to three weeks.

Vegetable gardens and flower beds can be watered as needed, but timing is key. Watering in the early morning or late evening reduces evaporation. Consider installing a drip irrigation system to be as efficient as possible in your garden.

For more detailed guidance, [read our drought landscaping and watering blog post](#).

**Help Thornton weather the drought**

**Water vegetable gardens, trees, and shrubs as needed**

Learn more at  
ThorntonWater.com/Drought

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## Water Saving Tips:

### Lawns Are Out, Water-Wise Gardens Are In

One of the best ways to save water in the summer is to convert your water-thirsty lawn into a beautiful water-wise garden. While traditional bluegrass varieties require lots of water to stay healthy and green, you can remove the grass in a portion of your yard and plant a variety of drought-tolerant plants, shrubs, and flowers. By replacing your grass with water-wise plants, you'll use less water outdoors while supporting pollinators (and spending less time maintaining your yard). Head to our [residential rebates page](#) (or our [HOA and multifamily properties rebate page](#)) to learn how you can save up to \$750 on a [lawn replacement project](#) through our partners at [Resource Central](#), or visit our [H2Overhaul page](#) to start planning your landscape conversion.



Take advantage of Resource Central's lawn replacement program to replace your thirsty grass with drought-tolerant landscaping.

## Plant Select Memberships and Choosing Drought-Tolerant Plants

Wondering what to plant in your garden this summer? [Plant Select](#) has you covered. Explore a catalog of drought-tolerant and water-wise plants and learn how to design your very own low-water landscape with free, expert advice from the Denver Botanic Gardens, Colorado State University, and professional horticulturalists. Sign up for the new [Plant Select membership program](#) for extra access to educational webinars and to help fund ongoing research, trials, and education.



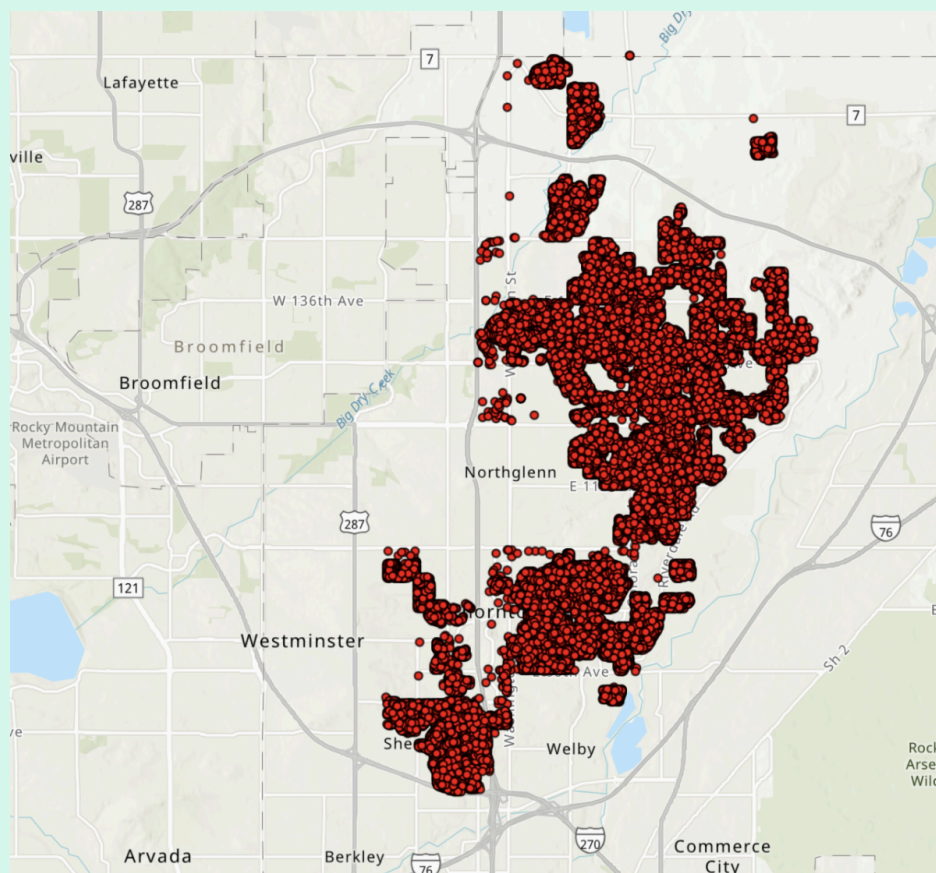
Many red trumpet plants like the Scarlet Rocket are drought-tolerant and support local pollinators like hummingbirds. Find more [drought-tolerant plants for hummingbirds](#) on Plant Select.

## Water Quality Corner Water Line Service Tool

While many water providers work to replace lead service lines for residents, Thornton Water customers don't need to worry. Due to the age of Thornton's water infrastructure, there are no recorded lead service lines in the city of Thornton. Customers can use our [Water Service Inspection Viewer](#) to locate their address and research the potable water service line materials on their property. A service line can be considered non-lead without further verification if one of the following criteria is met:

1. The service line was installed after the state lead ban of January 31, 1988, or after an earlier local ordinance or regulation banning lead.
2. The service line is four inches or more in diameter.

For more information on your water service line, contact Thornton Utilities Operations at 720-977-6500 or visit the [city of Thornton water quality page](#).



Look up your home address on our [Water Service Inspection Viewer](#) to check the material of your water service line.

**Questions? Give us a call!**

**Utility Billing:** 303-538-7370

**Water Quality:** 303-255-7770

**Water Efficiency Programs** and WaterSmart customer portal: 720-977-6600