

## **Drought Proof Your Lawn:** *Adjust Sprinkler Heads to Ensure Good Coverage*

You can save water and have a greener lawn by making sure that you are using the proper sprinkler heads and that each head is operating as it should.

Take the time to check your spray patterns within each sprinkler zone. Look to make sure the spray stream is covering from head to head. Also, check to see if water is going too far and running onto the sidewalk, driveway, or street.

Make sure heads are fully operational. Heads can have clogged filters or internal problems that prevent them from rotating. Nozzles often pop out resulting in an inefficient spray pattern. Check for heads that have been damaged by mowers and ones that have been tilted sideways.

Many sprinkler heads have spray patterns that you can easily adjust using a tool available at any sprinkler supply store. All you need is the brand and type of head to get the right adjusting tool to properly and efficiently water your lawn.

Often, people over-water a whole lawn simply because of one dry spot. This dry spot can be more efficiently corrected by simply changing sprinkler nozzles. Use larger nozzles for the dry problem areas and smaller nozzles for the swampy areas. This will allow you to correct the issue without over-watering the rest of the lawn or trying to alter the time that zones run.

If you still have a dry and compacted spot or a dry hillside, use a wetting agent or dishwashing liquid soap. This softens the soil and allows it to absorb more water.

Finally, use pressure regulating heads to more efficiently water your lawn. These heads will give you a larger water droplet size rather than a mist. This will ensure that more water is absorbed by your soil rather than evaporated into the air and will give you subsequently greener grass.

***Watch for weekly articles about how to drought proof your lawn. Questions may be directed to Darwin Bundy at [dbundy@lehi-ut.gov](mailto:dbundy@lehi-ut.gov).***