



23828 30th Avenue South, Kent, Washington
(206) 824-0375

Spring/Summer 2018

The WaterLine Newsletter

Water-Related News and Information from Highline Water District

3 Important Updates:

- ✓ **Meter replacements underway**
- ✓ **The case of the missing water meter**
- ✓ **7 Steps for more healthy landscaping**

Keeping Our Water System Efficient with Updated Meters

As part of our commitment to keep your water system as modern and efficient as possible, we're replacing all of the Radio-Read Water Meters throughout our service area (some of you may already have your new meter).

Most of our water system's meters are between 15 and 18 years old. Replacing them before they fail ensures correct water usage reporting.

These "Radio-Read" meters enable us to drive through the neighborhood for meter reading, rather than having to manually locate and read each meter individually: the meter's radio sends the reading to a computer located inside our truck. Meters can be read much faster and more accurately, which helps keep our staff time, and your resulting water rates, lower.

What to Expect:

When it's your turn to get a new water meter, our crews will knock on your door to let you know your water will be off for about 5-10 minutes. Most customers won't even know we've been there.



Help Us Keep Your Water Meters and Fire Hydrants Accessible

Servicing water meters is usually a straightforward task—unless we have to search for the meter in overgrown foliage, or worse, perform tree and shrub maintenance to access it.

The same is true of fire hydrants—our routine valve exercising and painting tasks take much longer when we have to clear away vegetation first.

This Spring, please take a moment to check meters and hydrants for accessibility:

- Trim away any shrubs or ground covers that are hiding the equipment.
- When buying new plants, verify their size upon maturity: please don't plant bushes or plants that will eventually cover your meter or hydrant.
- Do not install landscape bricks, rocks, or retaining walls that block our staff or firemen from accessing your water meter or fire hydrant.
- If you see a fire hydrant that needs to be uncovered or painted, email us at customerservice@highlinewater.org or call (206) 824-0375.

Why does meter accessibility matter, given that our water meters are "Radio-Read?" If the water meter can't be easily located, it can't be easily turned off in the event of a leak—leading to more damage and cost. Help us keep you and our community safe!

6

Easy Steps for More Healthy, Water-Efficient Landscaping

Nothing beats a beautiful back yard in summer. These 6 simple steps will help you save money, protect the health of your family and pets (not to mention our local salmon and environment), and improve the overall health of your yard:

1. Mow Differently

Cut your grass higher than normal—roughly 1 to 2 inches—cut it more regularly, and leave the clippings on the grass. Don't worry... this won't cause thatch to build up. It makes lawns healthier with more soil organisms and free fertilizer.



2. Fertilize Differently

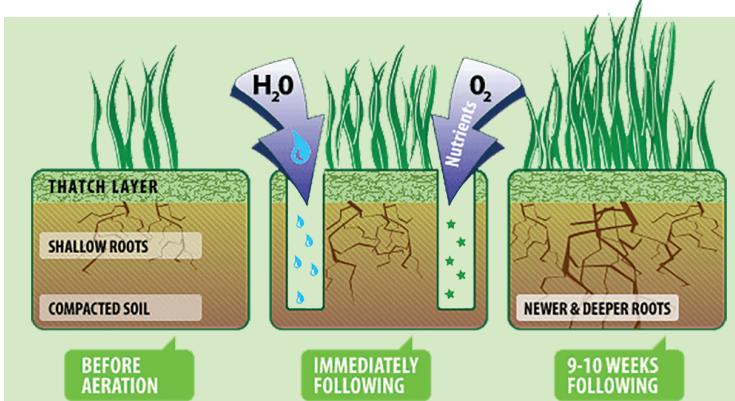


Grass in our area is not deep blue-green by nature, it's a lighter meadow green. Choose organic, slow-release fertilizers, and wait until September to fertilize (if you need to do it sooner, choose May: when grass growth slows down).

3. Water Differently

Let the soil dry out between waterings to prevent lawn disease and save water. Lawns only need roughly 1 inch of water per week in summer to stay green. How much is 1 inch? Put an empty tuna can on your grass, turn on the sprinkler, and check the time. When the tuna can has filled with 1 inch of water, note the time. That's how long to water your yard each week.

If you're using an irrigation system, install a rain shutoff device, and/or a WaterSense-labeled timer that adjusts your runtimes according to the weather. Put a reminder on your calendar to inspect the system every month for leaks.



4. Maintain Differently

Aerate in spring or fall to improve root development and water penetration, then **overseed** with Northwest-adapted grass seed, followed by a top dressing of 1/4 to 1/2 inch of **compost** to cover the seed and improve the soil.

5. Think Differently

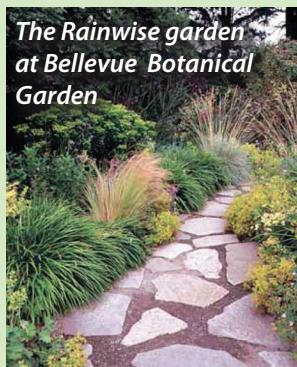
Avoid "weed and feed," RoundUp, and other lawn chemicals.



Everything you put in your yard eventually winds up in our local streams, lakes, and Puget Sound.

Steps 1 through 4 will promote a healthier lawn that crowds out weeds. A long-handled weed puller easily removes dandelions after watering.

6. Plant Differently



Grass is choosy: it doesn't like to grow in all areas, and takes a lot of work to maintain. Consider adding pathways, vegetable beds, flower beds, and native vegetation more suited to the different zones in your yard (dry, moist, sunny, shady). This also provides more food and cover for birds, butterflies, and bees.

If you want to keep some grass, choose grass species labeled by the Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance for a green, healthy yard with less watering.

The WaterLine Newsletter is brought to you by Highline Water District and its Board of Commissioners:

Daniel Johnson (President), Kathleen Quong-Vermeire (Secretary), Todd Fultz, Vince Koester, and George Landon.
Contact us Monday through Friday from 7:00 am through 4:00 pm at (206) 824-0375 or customerservice@highlinewater.org
Visit us at 23828 30th Avenue South, Kent, Washington 98032 • www.highlinewater.org