

## JULY 2007

Each month, Case's [sustainability team](#) issues the campus a monthly challenge that promises to save you money, offer smarter ways of using energy, and reduce your contributions to CO<sub>2</sub> / green house gas emissions. Feel free to share these challenges with your friends, colleagues, and family.

### The Grass IS Greener on YOUR Side of the Fence!

May-September turns many of us into maniacs of the lawn and garden center. My neighbor informed me he's not a gardener, he's a "grass manager." If you fall into this category, you're easy to spot: you're the household with the leaf blower, the edger, a rider mower, the lawn cart, a sprinkler system, and the front yard that looks like the 12<sup>th</sup> hole at Augusta. **Smart watering** means more than just lower water bills. It also means healthier lawns.

Hey, we're all for the natural beauty this season brings so here are some tips for saving some money on your water bills, laying off some of the pesticides, all the while creating a beautiful lawn that would make even Zach Johnson green with envy.

### Energy Fact:

May-September, water use in our region nearly doubles, primarily for lawns and gardens. Experts estimate that **50% or more of this water goes to waste**, due to evaporation, runoff, or simply over watering.

### Grazin' in the Grass

*It's time to water when:*

- The grass turns a dull green color
- Foot prints last long after you've walked across the lawn
- It's tough to push a screwdriver, trowel, or shovel into the soil

*When and how much?*

- Water no more than **1 inch per week in the summer...** including rain.
- To find out how long your sprinklers take to supply this amount, place several short, straight-sided, empty containers (like tuna or cat food cans) on your lawn. Place some near the edges of the spray pattern and some near the center. Turn on the sprinkler(s) for 15 minutes, then measure the water depth in each can with a ruler and determine the average depth.
- Water early in the morning or at night to avoid evaporation.
- Soaker hoses and drip irrigation use **50% less water than sprinklers.**

### Want John Deere to Pimp Your Ride?

- The automobile industry isn't the only manufacturing category embracing alternative fuels. The Toro Co. recently announced it was introducing **biodiesel-powered mowers** after four years of testing everything from soybean oil to french-fry grease.

### Shear Laziness

If you've been looking for an excuse not to rake and bag your grass clippings, look no further!. Leave them on the lawn for a healthy nitrogen boost.

- **Free fertilizer.** Grass clippings release nitrogen, so you can spend 25% less on fertilizer.
- Less synthetic fertilizer means **less nitrogen runoff** into waterways (too much nitrogen causes algae overgrowth, which kills aquatic life).
- **Smaller landfills.** The EPA estimates that yard waste such as grass clippings accounts for 18% of household trash.
- **Relaxation.** Instead of stuffing bags, you can sit back, knowing the grass is indeed greener!