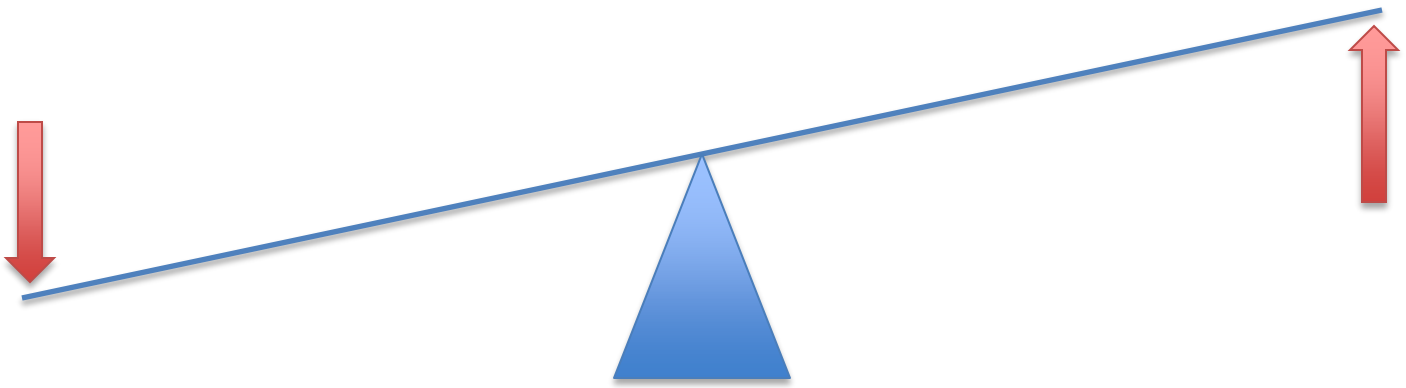

Strategies for Reducing
Water Use

Reducing need – Increasing efficiency

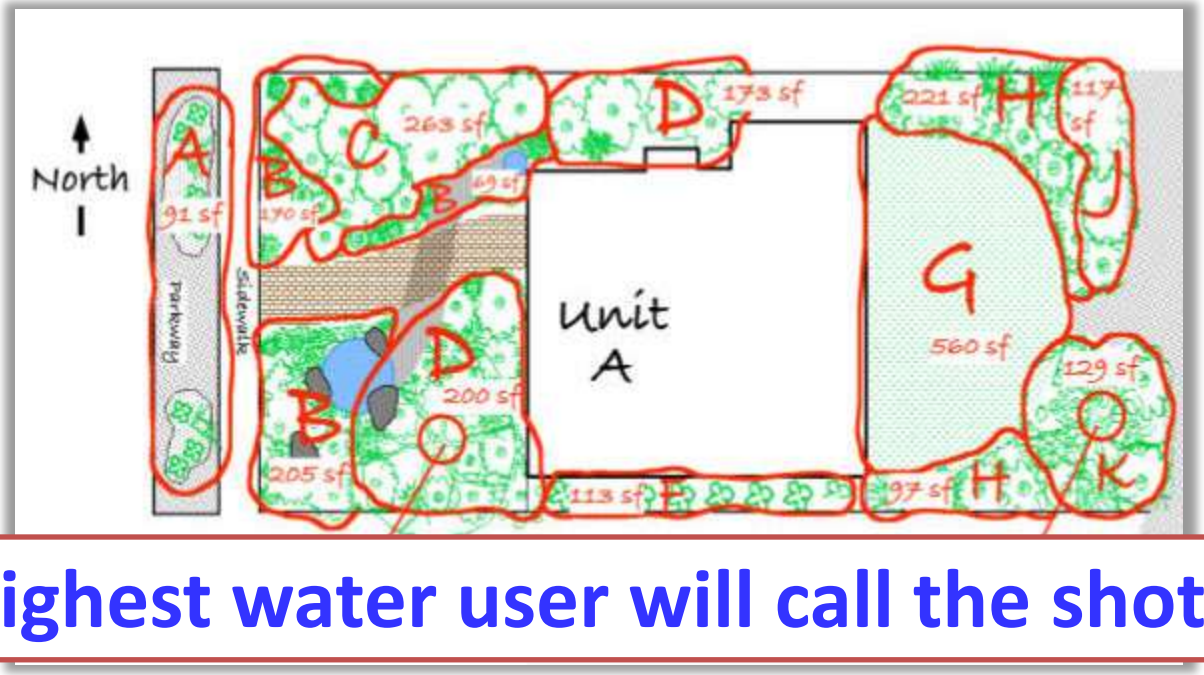


Reduce Water Need

- **Remove unnecessary turf**
  - ***ASK: Is it being used?***
- **Replace with**
  - **Low-water beds**
  - **Permeable paths**
- **BONUS: reduces man-hours**

Reduce Water Need

- **Hydrozone**
  - **Group plants with similar water needs on the same valve – *Why?***



Highest water user will call the shots!

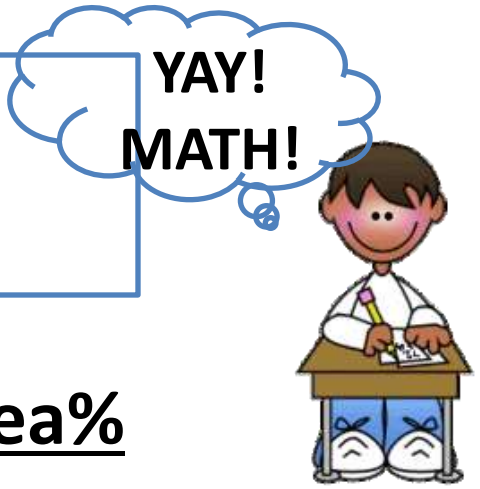
Reduce Water Need

- **Balance High-water zones (turfgrass) with Low-water**

Balance your Zones

- Total landscape goal of 50% ET_0
  1. Measure square footage of all zones
  2. Divide ft^2 of each zone by total = Area%
  3. Multiply each Area% by its ET_0% = Use%
  4. Add up all Use% = 50% or less

Balance your Zones



		Area%	
• Bed A =	137 ft^2	• A =	.137
• Bed B =	53 ft^2	• B =	.053
• Lawn =	400 ft^2	• Lawn =	.400
• Vegetables =	160 ft^2	• Veg =	.160
• Bed C =	250 ft^2	• C =	.250
Total=	1000		

Balance your Zones

Area% x ET_0% - (cool season turf ex.)

- A = .137 x .10 = .014
- B = .053 x .10 = .005
- Lawn = .400 x 0.8 = .32 – 3/5 of my budget!
- Veg = .160 x 1.0 = .16
- C = .250 x .10 = .025

Target = .50

Actual: .524

Balance your Zones

Area% x ET_0%- (reduced turf/warm season)

- A = .137 x .50 = .0685
- B = .253 x .20 = .05
- Lawn = .200 x 0.6 = .12
- Veg = .160 x 1.0 = .16
- C = .250 x .40 = .100

Target = .50

Actual: .4985!

- Reduce the lawn by half- use warm season type
- Add the area to a LOW water area
- Balance with more moderate areas

Reducing Need

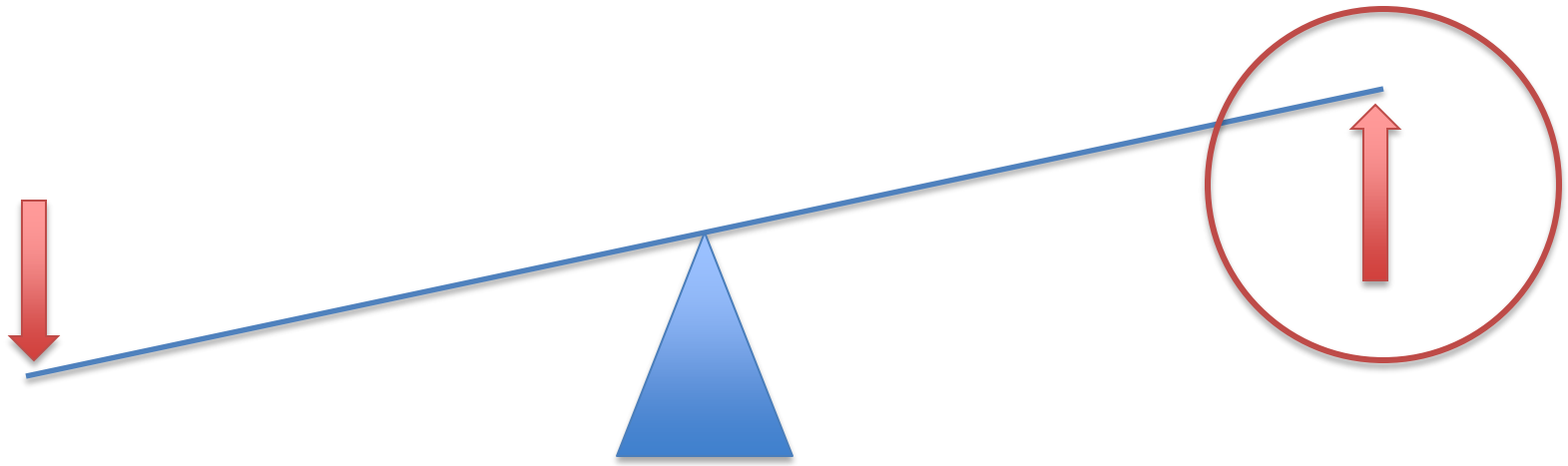
- **Keep turf healthy**
  - **Maintain proper height**
  - **Fertilize regularly- but not more than 1lb. N/1000 ft^2/app.**

- **During severe drought, fertilize less**

Reducing Need

- **Don’t over-fertilize beds – if at all**
- **Flushes of new leaves = higher water need**

Reducing need – Increasing efficiency



Increase Efficiency

- System Check
  - Pressure adequate?

Increase Efficiency

- **System Check**
  - **Make timely repairs**

Increase Efficiency

- System Check
  - Make timely repairs
  - MISMATCHED
  - COCKED
  - BLOCKED
  - BROKEN
  - ROTATED

Increase Efficiency

- Systems Check
  - Upgrade
    - Lowest practical PR
    - Check valves

Increase Efficiency

- **Replace sprays in beds with drip**

Increase Efficiency

- **Improve your soil**
  - **Till compost into new plantings**

Increase Efficiency

- **MULCH BEDS!**
  - **Reduces water loss**
  - **Improves soil texture**
  - **Increases infiltration**
  - **Keeps plant roots cool**
  - **LEAVES CAN BE MULCH!**

Increase Efficiency

- **Improve your soil**
  - **Aerate turf regularly**
  - **Top dress with compost**
  - **Avoid fungicides**

➢ **Healthy soil absorbs and releases water better**

Increase Efficiency

- Irrigate according to plant maturity
  - MATURE-
    - Deep but infrequent
  - NEWLY planted
    - Frequently to just below root zone
    - Gradually increase interval

Increase Efficiency

Pay attention to density

Increase Efficiency

Pay attention to density

Increase Efficiency

Pay attention to microclimate

Increase Efficiency

Pay attention to microclimate

Increase Efficiency

Pay attention to seasons

- **Minimum changes-4**
  - **Winter –OFF**
  - **Spring (April-May)**
  - **Summer (June – Aug)**
  - **Fall (Sept. – Oct.)**
  - **NOVEMBER- OFF**

Increase Efficiency

- **ELIMINATE RUN-OFF!**

QUESTIONS?