

# Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

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Paul F. Prue, *Chairman*  
Charles F. Crowell  
Peter L. McDowell

## Main-Line News

[www.denniswater.org](http://www.denniswater.org)

Appointed by Water Commissioners

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David Larkowski, Superintendent  
Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk & Treasurer  
James Ritchie, Asst. Superintendent

Volume 17, No. 2

August 2010

## Dog Days of Summer

What a difference a year makes. Last year the District pumped the least amount of water in more than 20 years. This year we are poised to have one of the largest pumping years on record. In fact, on July 5, a new record of 10.7 million gallons pumped in one day was set. Fortunately, the earlier winter and spring rains left the wells topped off nicely and no problems being able to meet demand are anticipated. While there are no water supply problems this year, all customers should continue exercising good conservation measures.



**Lawn Maintenance:** Most lawns in our area consist of a mixture of cool-season lawn grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and fine fescue. These grasses naturally slow down and may go dormant in the heat of summer. Consumers should make a conscious decision whether to water

lawns throughout the summer to keep them looking green or let the grass go dormant. Do not allow lawns to turn brown and then water them back to a green condition as this depletes energy reserves and stresses the plant. If you decide to water your grass all summer-long, you are probably going to pay a hefty water bill next February.

Water lawns deeply and infrequently, applying about 1"-1 1/2" per application. This encourages deeper root growth which makes the grass more resistant to disease and drought conditions. If allowed to go dormant, lawns only need about 1/4 to 1/2 inch of water every 2 to 3 weeks to keep root and crown tissue alive. Once more favorable weather returns, the lawn should break dormancy and green-up again.

Mowing height is probably the most important practice to prepare lawns for hot weather. Mow at heights around three inches as the summer heat increases. Lawns maintained at greater heights usually develop deeper roots and dry out more slowly than closely mowed turf. It is best to hold off until later in the season for most other lawn care practices, including fertilizing, seeding, thatch control, and applying weed killers.

For now, help your lawn by proper mowing, watering, and keeping foot and vehicle traffic off the grass as much as possible during the heat of the summer months.

## Don't Flush It. Crush It.

### FOUR SAFE STEPS TOWARD PROPER DISPOSAL

1. Pour medication into a sealable plastic bag. If medication is a solid (pill, liquid capsule, etc.) crush it or add water to dissolve it.
2. Add cat litter, sawdust, coffee grounds to the plastic bag so that it mixes together and makes it less appealing for pets and children to eat.
3. Seal the plastic bag and put it in the trash.
4. Remove and destroy ALL identifying personal information (prescription label) from all medication containers before recycling them or throwing them into the trash.



Patients should ALWAYS refer to printed material accompanying their medication for specific instructions.

### How Important Is It?

All uses of water on Cape Cod—whether for drinking, swimming, boating, shellfishing, cranberry farming or wetland habitat—depend on the health and quality of our aquifer. Cape Cod's Sole Source Aquifer is directly affected by everything that goes down your drain, including expired or unwanted medications.

### What Is An Aquifer?

All of the drinking water on Cape Cod comes from our Sole Source Aquifer. A Sole Source Aquifer is an underground supply of water designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the "sole or principal" source of drinking water for an area. EPA guidelines also require that these areas have no alternative drinking water sources(s) which could physically, legally, and economically supply water to all who depend on the aquifer for drinking water.

**For More Information Regarding Safe Medications and Prescription Disposal....**

- ♦ Cape Cod Cooperative Extension at 508-375-6699
- ♦ [www.capecodextension.org](http://www.capecodextension.org)
- ♦ [www.capecodgroundwater.org](http://www.capecodgroundwater.org)
- ♦ [www.smarxtdisposal.net](http://www.smarxtdisposal.net)

