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PLAN AHEAD FOR RISING TEMPERATURES

-Protect your lawn all summer long-

ATLANTA (July 9, 2010) – As the northern heat wave moves south, already hot temperatures are getting even hotter! And, despite a rainy spring, meteorologists are predicting a dry, hot summer. waterSmart has several tips that will help keep lawns healthy while conserving precious drinking water. Use these tips below to save money, time and water, when the weather's hot and your lawn is thirsty.

- **Mulch** – Use mulch to maintain moisture in soil. Pine bark, nuggets and hardwood chips are best, but rocks, gravel and marble retain heat which can cause evaporation. Another helpful hint – saturate a newspaper and place it on the ground before using mulch.

- **Use Rain Barrels** – To save Georgia's drinking water, build or buy your own rain barrel to capture water when it rains. Rain barrels attach easily to your downspout and provide a conservation-friendly thirst quencher for plants. Materials can be purchased from local hardware stores. Remember to use a screen to keep out debris and insects. Visit www.watershed.cobbcountyga.gov for more tips on rain barrels.

- **Know Your Lawn's Limits** – Established lawns, plants and shrubs need only one inch of water every seven to 10 days to remain healthy. Determine how long it takes for your lawn to absorb the perfect amount of water by placing a small, shallow pan in the path of a sprinkler. Monitor the time to collect one inch and use this as a guide when watering. To avoid run-off, turn off the sprinkler and allow the lawn to soak up extra water before finishing the one-inch accumulation. Better yet – use a sprinkler with a built-in timer.

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“A hot, dry summer can stress any landscape,” says Becky Mixon, project manager for waterSmart. “By implementing waterSmart lawn care techniques, you can keep a beautiful lawn while helping to conserve Georgia’s drinking water supply.”

For more tips on how to have a waterSmart landscape as well as other water conservation techniques, visit www.waterSmart.net.

Don’t forget, statewide watering restrictions went into effect June 2, 2010. Outdoor watering hours are 4 p.m. to 10 a.m. Details regarding the Georgia Water Stewardship Act can be found by visiting www.georgiaepd.org.

About waterSmart

The waterSmartSM program was initiated by the Cobb County – Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) in 2000 to educate their service area residents of all ages about the importance of indoor and outdoor water conservation and to help encourage sustainable, year-round conservation, regardless of climate conditions. The CCMWA is in its tenth year of providing the waterSmart program to the community. For more information on water conservation and waterSmart, visit www.waterSmart.net.

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