

DRIP kicks off seventh year of providing water-saving tips
By DAVID A. REINERTSEN
Special to the Sentinel

The Grand Valley Drought Response Information Project (DRIP) has promoted water-conservation techniques and practices since 2003. This summer, DRIP will continue to focus on smart water use inside and outside your homes and businesses. The DRIP group, including Ute Water, Clifton Water, the City of Grand Junction, the Town of Palisade, and Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Service, will present weekly articles on the Daily Sentinel's Home & Garden page to give you water-saving strategies, updates on water supplies, and other water-conservation topics. The idea is to provide you with practical ways to save water and money. The DRIP campaign was created after by its partners to educate customers about water conservation after the 2002 drought and to support the water providers' drought response plan.

Now is the time to get prepared for the summer watering season. Some of our upcoming articles will deal specifically with sprinkler system tune-ups. This includes the increasing popularity of using "smart" controllers, which allow you to customize your irrigation to save water and benefit landscaping.

Other articles will address backyard pools and fish ponds. Here on the Home & Garden page, you'll also read about the water-efficient landscaping used on the new Riverside Parkway and how it's growing.

While some of the basic ideas of water conservation may seem familiar, it never hurts to get a reminder of how to save money and conserve water inside your house and outside in your yard. Also this year, we plan to expand our educational campaign to work with domestic water providers from Rifle to Montrose, and help their customers conserve water. Here in the Grand Valley, the DRIP campaign has identified techniques and processes that have shown documented reductions in per-capita water consumption. Hopefully other water providers in Western Colorado will see similar results.

We are always interested in implementing new ways to conserve our limited, precious resource – clean, clear drinking water. So, if you have any unique water conservation ideas or questions, contact your domestic water provider. Visit www.thedripwebsite.com for ideas on how you can save water at home.

We live in a semiarid climate where droughts will always be a part of our environment. Water for our future means conserving now. The Drought Response Information Project (DRIP) is a collaboration between the valley's domestic water utilities and CSU Cooperative Extension to provide information and educate the public about drought and the importance of water conservation.