

5 Ways to Help Grown-Ups Have a Clean, Green Summer (and Save Water)!



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- 1. Water-Conscious Lawn Care:** Lawns need far less water than most of us think. A good overnight soaking once a week will keep most lawns looking lush and green. But there's a trick: ask the grown-up who takes care of your lawn to keep the mower blades on the tallest setting. Believe it or not, longer grass needs less water than short grass! Also, after the grown-up is finished mowing, suggest that they use a broom, not the water hose, to clean up the sidewalks and driveway. Washing a driveway with the hose uses about 50 gallons of water every 5 minutes!
- 2. Keep it Moist with Mulch!** The hot Summer sun is pretty tough on exposed soil. Just a few days without rain or watering and everything dries up and starts blowing away. To keep the ground moist and to keep weeds from growing in large numbers, ask grown-ups to put a layer of mulch around flower beds, trees and shrubs.
- 3. Put a Lid on Pool and Hot Tub Evaporation.** Sometimes, the simple ideas are best: like asking your parent or another grown-up to make sure to use a pool cover or a spa cover. It's not very high-tech, but simply covering the surface of the water will help protect it from evaporation. **IMPORTANT: NEVER TRY TO DO ANYTHING TO COVER A POOL OR SPA YOURSELF! ALWAYS ASK A GROWN-UP!!**
- 4. Plant 'Local'.** This is an amazing fact: if indigenous (naturally-local) plants are used for landscaping, as much as 50% less water will be needed to keep them healthy and growing. It makes sense when you think about it. Indigenous plants have grown accustomed to local weather patterns and precipitation levels, and don't need nearly as much water as many plants from other regions and climates.
- 5. Don't Do This at Home:** Don't wash your car at home. Why? These days, most commercial car wash facilities (both do-it-yourself stalls and full-service drive-thru) have highly effective water reclamation systems that recycle the water over and over again. If the grown-ups in your life REALLY LIKE washing their cars at home, ask them not to leave the hose running between rinses. Just turning the hose off between rinses saves as much as 150 gallons of water each time the car is washed!

ONLINE RESOURCES

http://www.tampagov.net/dept_water/conservation_education/Customers/outsideAnimation.asp

<http://www.monolake.org/socialwater/wctips.htm>

<http://www.montana.edu/wwwpb/pubs/eb27.html>

<http://www.riversideca.gov/utilities/BeWaterwise/Water%20Conservation%20Tips.htm>

<http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us/WATER/books.html>

<http://www.sydneywater.com.au/SavingWater>

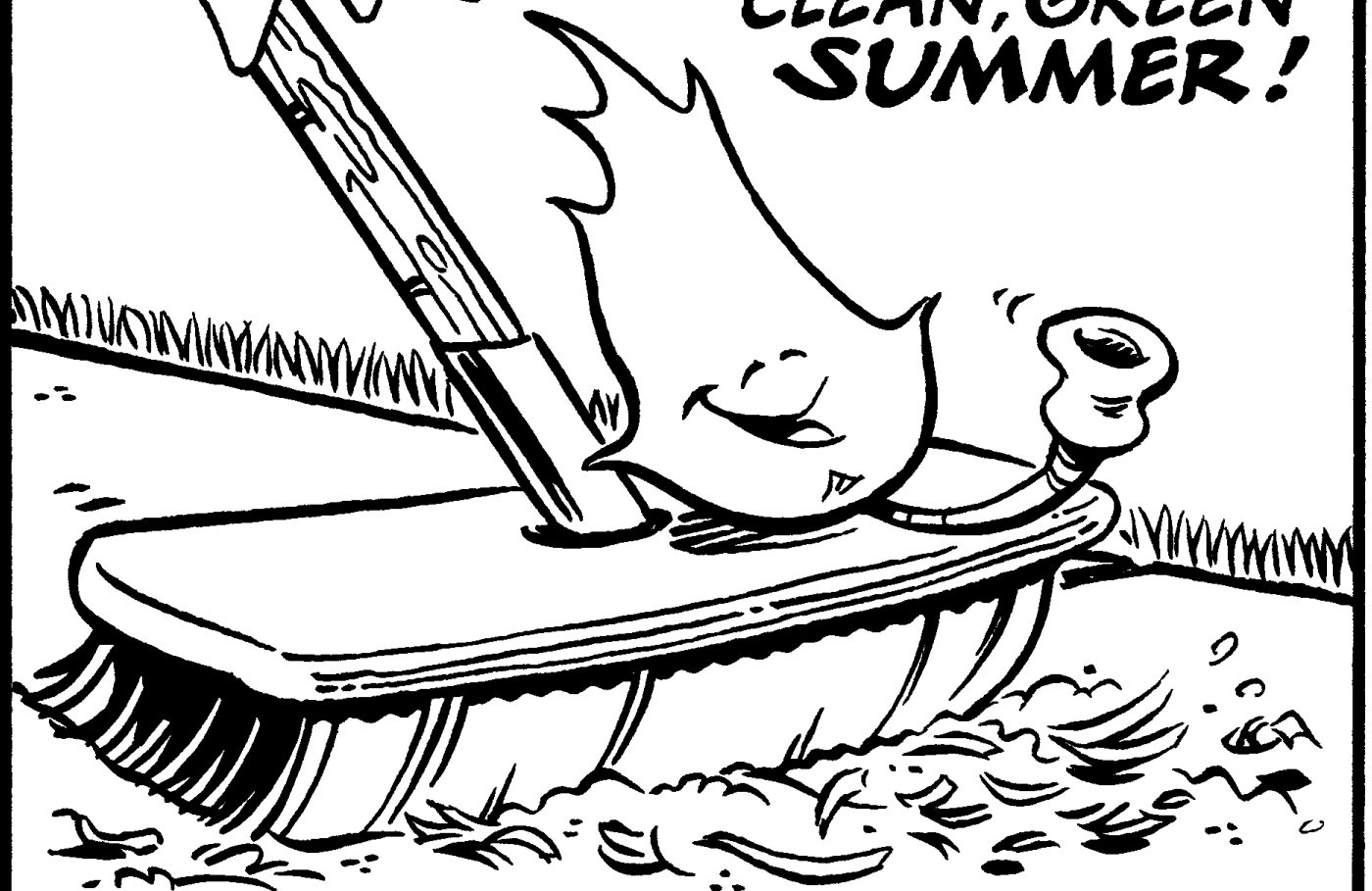
http://www.ci.norman.ok.us/tips/water_conservation.htm

http://www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/waterandpower/water_conservation.asp

REMIND GROWN-UPS TO

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-- FOR A
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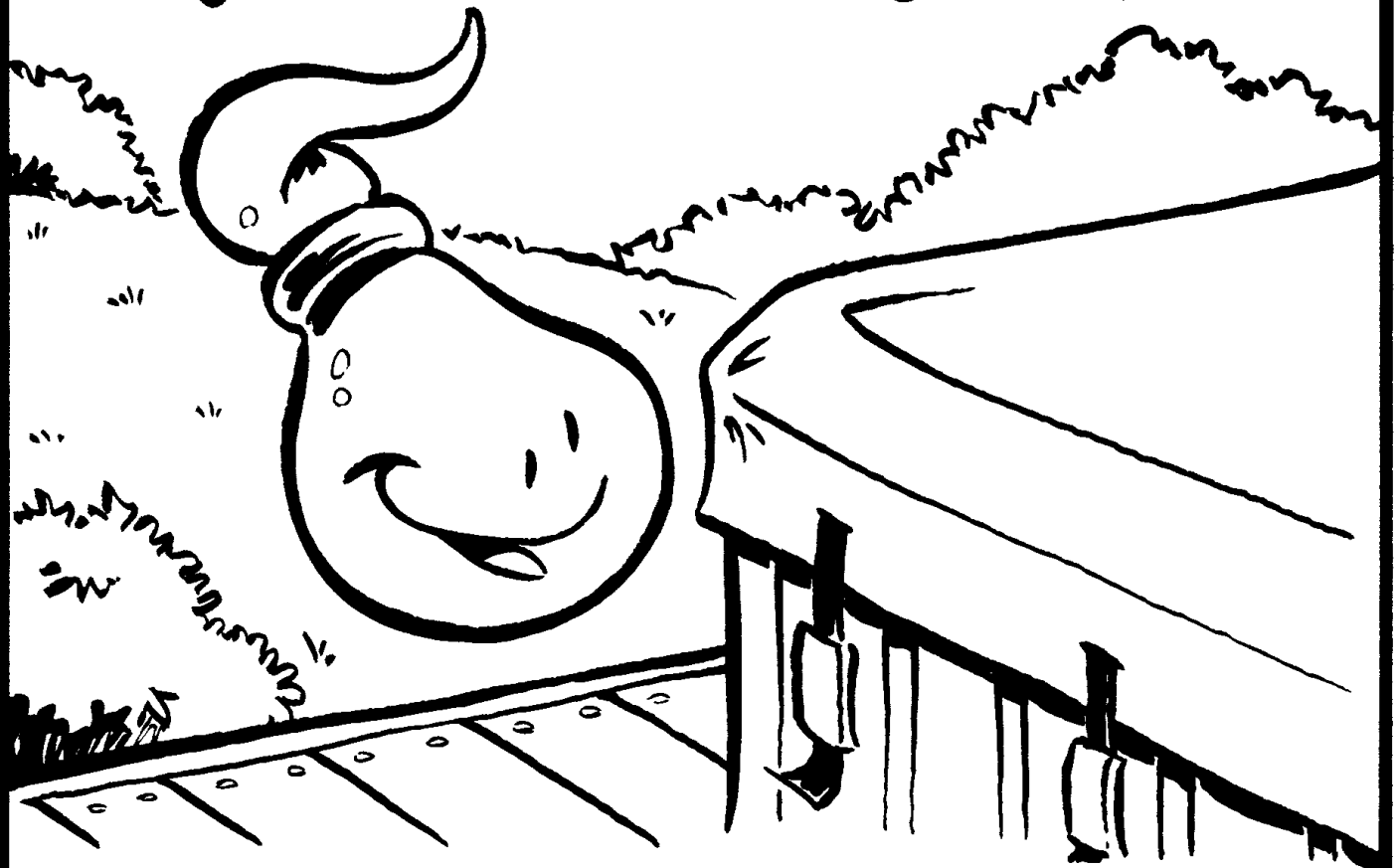


INSTEAD OF HOSING YOUR
DRIVE AFTER MOWING -- SWEEP!

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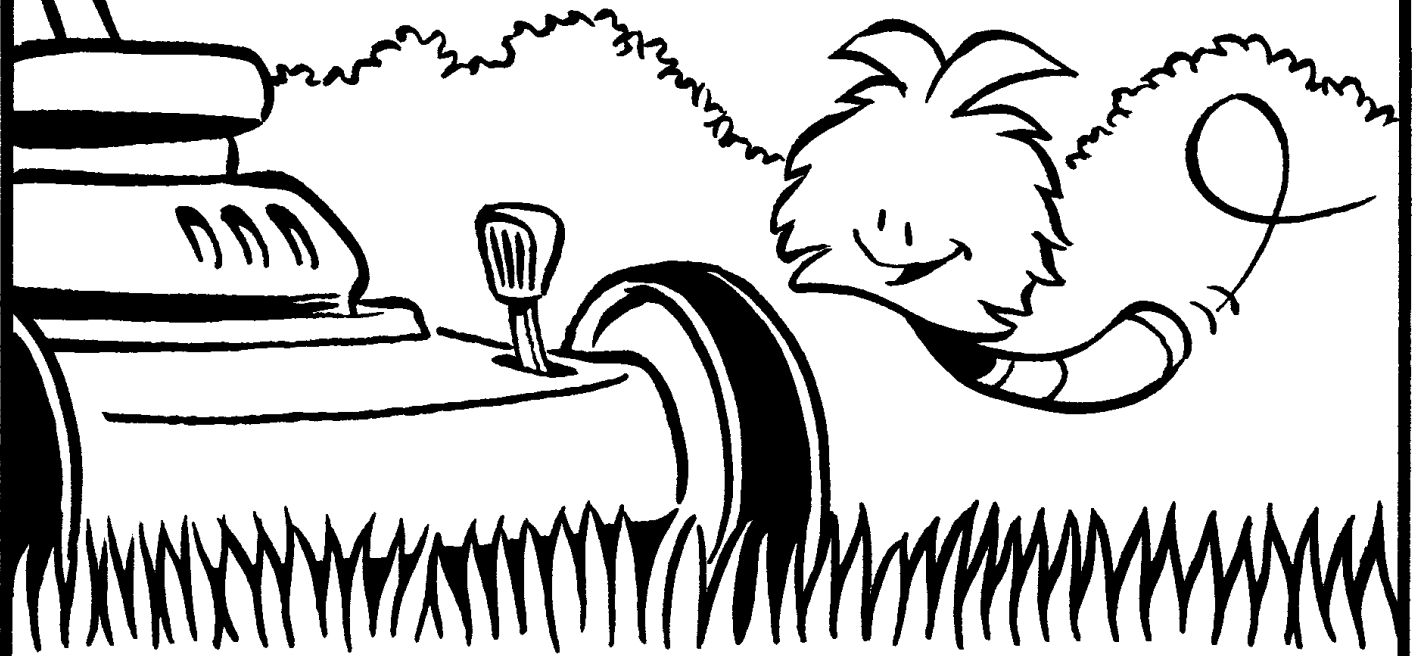


**COVER POOLS AND SPAS
TO PREVENT EVAPORATION!**

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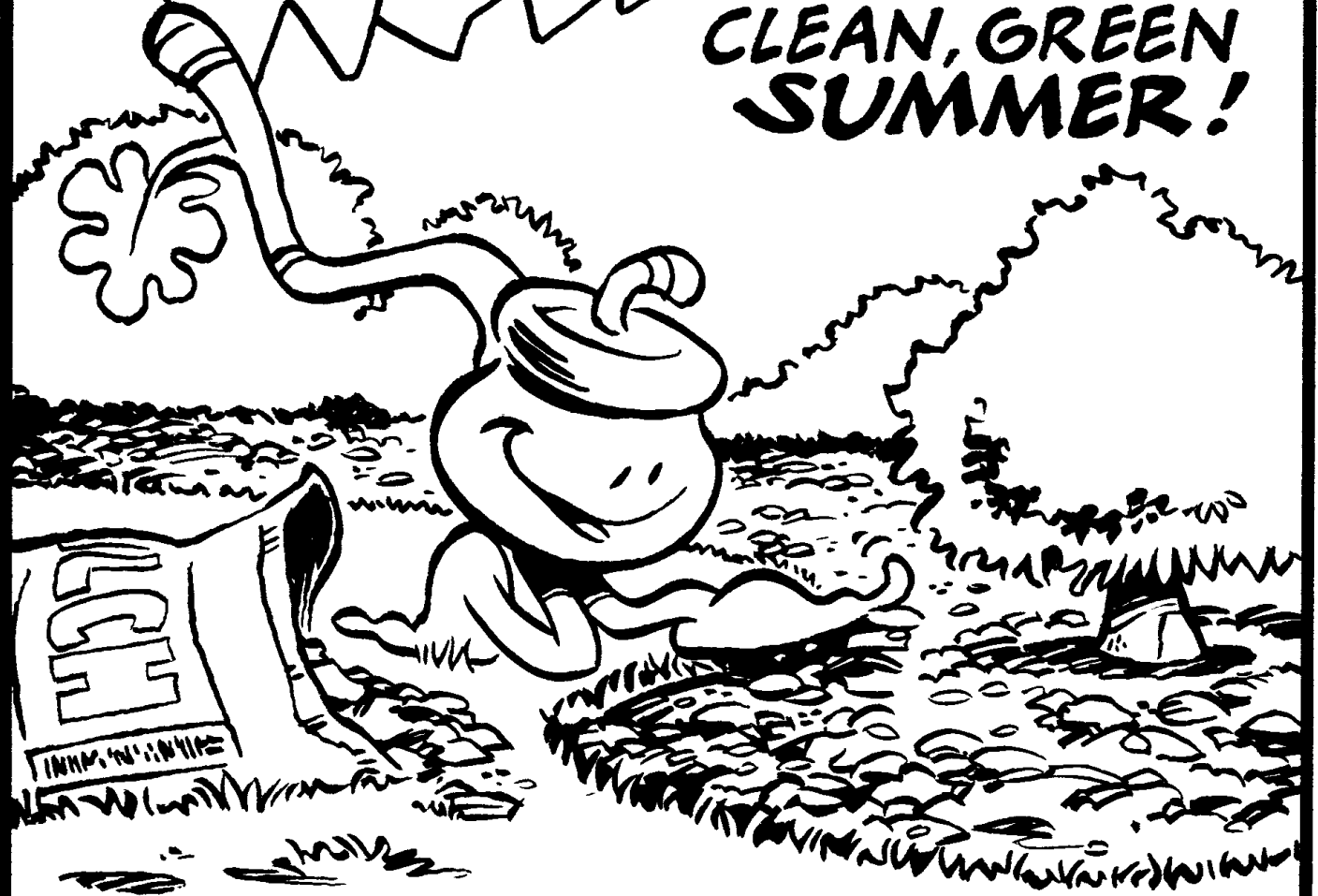


**SET MOWER WHEELS HIGHER
--TALLER GRASS USES LESS WATER!**

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**MULCH! -- IT CONSERVES WATER
AND REDUCES WEEDS!**