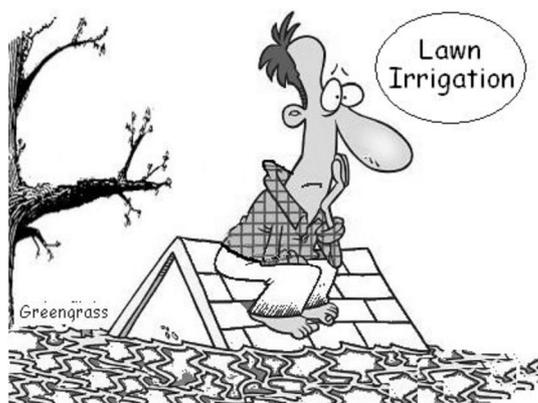


# The Costa Water - by Greengrass



MAYBE SET A LITTLE HIGH !!

Wherever you live in Spain, on the Costa Blanca, Costa del Sol or any other of the glorious Costas, there is one particular Costa that is dear to all of our hearts. That's the "Costa Water".

With the apparent shortage of the stuff, it's quite amazing how many private villas actually have swimming pools.

What (you may be asking) has this got to do with Real Grass Lawns?

Well I'll come to that in a minute - in the meantime, back to water.

Apart from the water that comes out of the tap, which is relatively inexpensive (which also by the way becomes astronomically costly if you exceed your quota) there are always the water companies that deliver tanker loads of water directly to your Villa. The delivery of water by lorry is not cheap, but essential if, as many of us, you are not connected to the mains water supply of treated water (agua potable).

Lastly there are those lucky people (mostly inland in agricultural areas) that have agricultural water running in canals. The cost of this type of water is miniscule.

So what's this got to do with Lawns!!!!

Well there are three other sources of water that are almost cost free.

- 1) Water collected from patios
- 2) Water collected from the roof
- 3) Recycled water from your swimming pool.

It is relatively easy to collect water from your roof. You either need to install guttering, or catch the runoff from the roof in a concrete trench laid around the house, Both these methods require a spirit level and a deposit to store the water in. And every time it rains - thousands of litres of free water.

Recycling the dirty water every time your pool filter is cleaned is also a source of valuable and 'free' water.

Now lets do some arithmetic...

Because I have to have water delivered by tanker, I only backwash my pool for about 15 seconds. This is not really enough as between 30 to 60 seconds is generally recommended. My pool is 8M x 4M and I can maintain the pool with this amount.

I measured that during the 15 second backwash, 90 litres (about 0.1M<sup>3</sup> or 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a cubic meter) of dirty water is dispelled. You can change the figures to suit your own particular circumstances.

I have a test lawn planted with Benissa Green (see website). This is one of the sun loving low maintenance 'Warm Season' grasses. To maintain it growing, I need to water it a couple or three times a month during the summer. To do this properly I need to water deep with about the equivalent of 1" of rainfall (2.5 cms) of water.

2.5 cms of water represents 1/40<sup>th</sup> of a cubic meter.

1 Cubic meter will therefore be enough to water 40M<sup>2</sup> of lawn

So with my 90 litres of water (that's 9cms deep x 1Meter x 1Meter),

I can water  $2.5/9 \times 40M^2$  of lawn. That's about 10M<sup>2</sup> of lawn.

So as you can see from the above calculation that if I was to backwash my filter two or three times a month for 60 seconds each time, and maybe have a bigger pool to keep clean, then I would have enough waste water to maintain a real grass lawn of 4 times that much (about 40M<sup>2</sup>)

Footnote:

I have managed to grow and be self sufficient with my own vegetables (tomatoes, garlic, melons, peppers etc) just from the wife's dirty washing up water that is stored in convenient rain butts and plastic dustbins.

I also now am the proud owner of a piece of real grass lawn, albeit 2 Meters by 5 Meters by the side of my pool patio that is solely watered from the backwash water from my pool

For more information about lawns, grass plugs or grass lawn products, or if you have any questions about your lawn, we would be pleased to answer any questions FREE - see us on Google "Lawns in Spain", Facebook or <http://www.lawnsinspain.com> Contact: lawnsinspain@yahoo.com or phone 676 863 778