

SPLASH INTO EXTENSION

Did You Know?

Winter watering may be needed during open winters when we have warmer than average temperatures and dry spells. Monitor weekly precipitation, whether snow or rain, and water during dry periods when the soil is not frozen. Winter droughts need treatment with water just as summer droughts do. Deeply water trees with a slow running sprinkler left in place long enough to moisten the top 12 inches of soil. Do not use 'root feeders' or deep root watering devices. Apply the water slowly enough that it can soak in and does not run off or freeze around the plant stems or crown overnight.

Safety of Plastic Drinking Bottles

By: Sharon Skipton, UNL Extension Water Quality Educator



"I was using my Nalgene drinking water bottled during a program, and someone asked about risks associated with similar drinking water containers. He remembered hearing something about them on the news a few years ago.

The issue in the news some time ago was in regard to Bisphenol A (BPA.) BPA is a chemical that was used in production of some reusable water bottles, including some, but not all, Nalgene

bottles and some, but not all, infant bottles and sippy-cups. Studies showed that BPA could leach into the water. Heating a container with BPA resulted in a greater exposure to the contaminant.

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) is a program that helps provide information about potential toxic chemicals. NTP released a brief on BPA in 2009 which resulted in the news coverage this individual was remembering.

There are several levels used to describe NTP's risk assessment of BPA. The five levels from highest to lowest are: serious concern, concern, some concern, minimal concern and negligible concern.

NTP wrote that the level of BPA that could be ingested from typical use of bottles or sippy-cups was of some concern for fetuses, infants, and children. They reported the level of BPA that could be ingested from typical use of reusable water bottles was of negligible concern for most other populations.

Manufacturers reacted quickly to the risk assessment and news coverage by eliminating BPA from drinking water containers. Nalgene drinking water bottles manufactured during the last two years, like the one I had with me, are BPA-free.

In summary, current science suggests there is negligible concern for adults, but some concern for impact on fetuses, infants, and children from typical use of older containers with BPA. Additional research is necessary to definitively answer health risk questions. Newer containers are BPA-free.