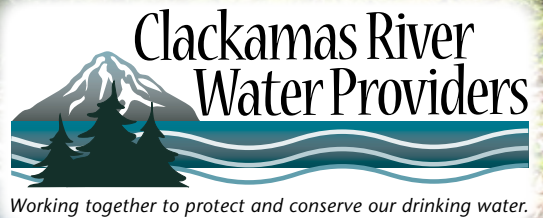




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CRWP YouTube Channel



SPRING 2023 News

NEW - CRWP YouTube Channel

Over the years the CRWP has developed several videos which we have available on our [website](#).

To make these videos easier to find we have recently created our own YouTube Channel. Here you will find our Virtual Classroom Presentation videos, our Water Treatment Plant tour videos, the Pesticide Reduction video series, and a Know Your Septic Systems, Check it, Fix it, Maintain it video from a 2021 workshop.

Visit and Subscribe today at: [CRWP YouTube Channel](#).

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Reducing Pesticides in
Clackamas River Watershed



Reduce Pesticide Use and
Runoff with Cover Crops



Reduce Pesticide Drift with
Improved Sprayer Efficiency

CHRISTINE HOLLENBECK, Public Education and Conservation Program Coordinator, (503) 723-3511 • christine@clackamasproviders.org
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Backyard Habitat Certification Program

The Clackamas River Water Providers believe that in order to maintain a healthy drinking water source we must educate our customers on the importance of protecting and properly managing their property whether they live in or outside the Clackamas River Watershed or not.

By planting native plants that use less water, reducing or eliminating pesticide use, and

identifying stormwater strategies so pollutants, such as pesticides, motor oil, metals, and other chemicals don't wash off our sidewalks and driveways are all ways you can help us protect the Clackamas River and other waterways in our area. One of

the ways you can do this is by earning a Backyard Habitat Certification.

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program is a joint project of the Audubon Society of Portland and Columbia Land Trust. Through this partnership they have created a unique program that supports urban gardeners in their efforts to create natural backyard habitats. These collective efforts transform urban landscapes creating positive change and making our cities a healthier place, for ourselves and for wildlife.

To be eligible for the program, properties must be less than one acre in size and be within the urban growth boundary. Program participants receive a full suite of program services from site assessments and high-quality technical assistance, discounts on native plants and books, to eventually earning one's very own Backyard Habitat Certification plaque.

Program Areas and Levels of Certification

The program focuses on the five elements of Backyard Habitats - Native Plants, Noxious Weeds, Pesticide Reduction, Stormwater Management and Wildlife Stewardship and

offers three levels of certification:

Silver, Gold, and Platinum. A qualified technician will come out for a site visit and help determine which elements are right for individuals and their yards.

Landowners can work toward higher certification levels in years to come and enjoy the array of wildlife their yard supports.

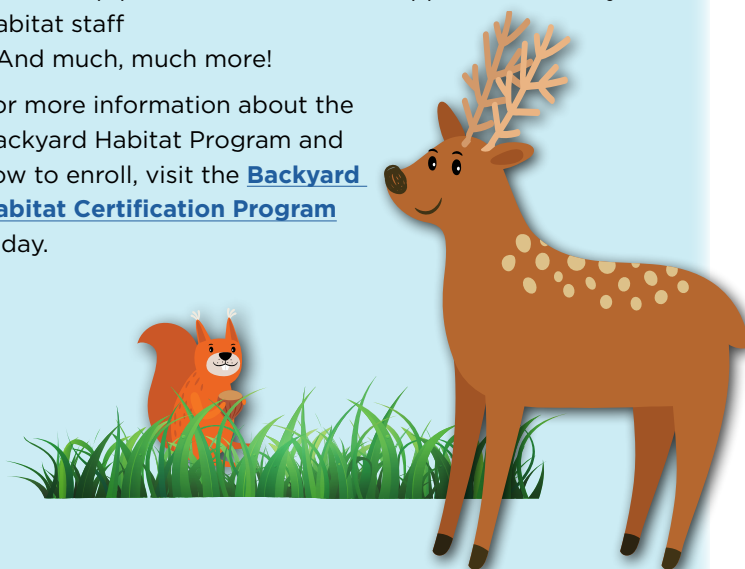
Benefits of the Backyard Habitat Program

Along with supporting native habitat and wildlife, reducing pesticide use and better managing stormwater, program participants receive benefits meant to assist in the creation and sustainability of their backyard habitat.

These include:

- Initial site visit and property walk-through with a Habitat Technician
- Follow-up customized Site report
- Access to an online Resource Library to help with your yard projects
- Discounts flyer that includes 10 to 25% off native plants at several local retail nurseries
- Receive a "Certification in Progress" yard sign
- Follow up phone calls and email support from Backyard Habitat staff
- And much, much more!

For more information about the Backyard Habitat Program and how to enroll, visit the [Backyard Habitat Certification Program](#) today.



NEW Pesticide Reduction Videos

Pesticide Reduction Efforts in the Clackamas River Watershed

Since the early 2000's we continue to see low levels of pesticides in the Clackamas River from the urban and agricultural areas of our watershed. Pesticides carried by stormwater runoff, wind, and irrigation can contaminate streams and the Clackamas River, threatening aquatic life and our drinking water source.

This past year the Clackamas River Water Providers partnered with the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District to develop a new video series on how to reduce the impacts of pesticide use for agricultural landowners. Proper application in addition to reducing runoff and drift are important practices that help keep soil and pesticides on farms instead of washing off into our tributaries and into the Clackamas River.

The videos include episodes on best management practices for why pesticide reduction is important, how to reduce pesticide drift with windsocks to improve sprayer efficiency, and how to reduce pesticide use and runoff with cover crops. The videos feature local growers, water providers, agency, and industry representatives.

Check out these news videos by going to <https://www.clackamasproviders.org/pesticide-reduction-video-series/> or visit our **YouTube** page <https://www.youtube.com/@CRWPORG/featured>



This Spring: Irrigation Workshops at Clackamas Community College

Working with our partner, Clackamas Community College Horticulture Department, we are offering two irrigation workshops this spring.

Irrigation Tips for Homeowners:

- June 15th, 6-10 pm
- July 8th, 8am-noon

Irrigation Installation and Maintenance (English and Spanish)

- Irrigation Install & Maintenance in English, April 15th, 8am-5pm
- Irrigation Install & Maintenance in Spanish, April 14th, 8am-5pm.

[Click here](#) for workshop information and registration. Scroll to the bottom of the page for offerings.

Make sure to follow Horticulture at [Clackamas Community College](#) as one of your favorite **Eventbrite** organizers by tapping the "Follow" button to be notified of upcoming/new offerings as they become available.



The Clackamas River Watershed

Agricultural Water Project

In 2022 the CRWP worked with a graduate student at Portland State University (PSU) to look at Agricultural surface water rights in the Clackamas basin. The purpose of this project was to understand how many agricultural water rights are in the Clackamas River watershed, where they are, how large they are, and if there are opportunities to work with these landowners under Oregon water law to put water back instream through water conservation efforts or water right leases or transfers.



Why Agricultural Water Rights? The Clackamas River watershed is home to many productive farms and nurseries. It is dominated by pasture and hay, Christmas trees, seed and sod grasses, and other cultivated products in greenhouses and nurseries. Agriculture production in Clackamas County and the Clackamas River watershed represents a significant portion of the agricultural sector in the state. Understanding agricultural water rights is an important first step towards helping identify potential opportunities to work with these landowners to increase river flows.

The Oregon Water Resources Department, who oversees water law in Oregon, has an established water law that allows water to be put back instream several different ways, including transferring water rights, leasing of water rights, and through Conserved Water Allocations. To further contextualize this information, this project interviewed representatives from The Freshwater Trust and The Deschutes River Conservancy, two organizations in Oregon that are working with landowners to put water back instream to see how or if their methods could be replicable in the Clackamas with a degree of success.

To see the results of this work and to explore the data in more detail go to <https://agricultural-water-rights-project-crwproviders.hub.arcgis.com/>

How Water Systems Work

Drinking Water Treatment

The Clackamas River Water Providers have five water treatment plants where water is taken out of the Clackamas River and treated before it is used as drinking water. Water treatment is the process of removing undesirable chemicals, biological contaminants, suspended solids and gases from the raw river water. The goal is to produce water fit for human consumption, or drinking water.

Water at our treatment plants is treated to meet legal limits set by the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) on the levels of certain contaminants in drinking water under the 1974 [Safe Drinking Water Act \(SDWA\)](#). These legal limits reflect both the level that protects human health and the level that water systems can achieve using the best available technology.



Want to learn more about your drinking water treatment process? Check out our [website](#) where we have video tours of each of our CRWP member treatment plants, or Email christine@clackamasproviders.org to schedule a tour and come see first-hand how your drinking water is made.

Tips to Help You Save Water this Spring



- **Check all indoor/outdoor faucets for drips.** Do a routine check every three months.

- **Before turning your irrigation system on** check it for leaks and broken spray heads caused by freezing temperatures.

- **Check toilets for leaks.** Drop leak detection tablets/strips from the CRWP or a teaspoon of food coloring into the tank. If the color appears in the bowl after 15 minutes, you have a leak.

- **Replace old toilets with a new EPA certified High Efficacy Toilet (HET).** [Apply](#) for a toilet rebate from the CRWP.

- **Keep drinking water in the refrigerator** so you don't have to run the tap until the water gets cold enough to drink.

- **Add a layer of mulch** in your flower and garden beds to retain soil moisture.

- **Sweep instead of washing** driveways, sidewalks, patios, and steps.

- **Take your car to a car wash** that recycles their water.

To help you save water around the house we provide free low flow aerators/shower heads, and several indoor/outdoor water rebates. For more water saving information visit the [Water Conservation page](#) on our website.

Help Celebrate Drinking Water Week

The Clackamas River Water Provider members will be celebrating **Drinking Water Week** (May 7-13). Each day of that week our CRWP Facebook page will recognize the vital role tap water plays in daily life. Each post will highlight the infrastructure that is required to carry water to and from homes and businesses, and the critical work that water professionals accomplish around the clock to ensure the delivery of quality tap water.

For more than 40 years the American Water Works Association and its members have used Drinking Water Week as a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives.



Drinking Water Week 2023

May 7-13, 2023

Spring Quiz:

Answers - Can be found on page 10

1. The CRWP have how many Treatment Plants on the Clackamas River?

- A. 10 Plants
- B. Over 50
- C. 5 Treatment Plants
- D. None

2. Which videos are found on the New CRWP YouTube Channel?

- A. Septic System Workshop
- B. Pesticide Runoff
- C. Treatment Plant Tours
- D. All of the Above

3. Oregon Drinking Water Services (DWS) enforces standards to how many public water systems?

- A. Less than 100
- B. 5,200 Systems
- C. 3,600 Systems
- D. None

4. To be eligible for the Backyard Habitat Program, properties must be less than one acre in size.

- A. True
- B. False

Basin Partner *(with text from OHA website)*

The Oregon Health Authority – Drinking Water Services

Access to safe drinking water is essential to human health. Oregon Drinking Water Services helps to keep drinking water safe for Oregonians. Oregon Drinking Water Services (DWS) administers and enforces drinking water quality standards for 3,600 public water systems in the state of Oregon. DWS focuses its resources in the areas of highest public health benefit and promotes voluntary compliance with state and federal drinking water standards.

Drinking Water Services staff work with local health departments, water system operators and managers, private consulting and service firms, professional water industry organizations, and educational institutions throughout Oregon to assure safe drinking water.

DWS prevents contamination of public drinking water systems by: protecting drinking water sources; assuring that public water systems meet standards for design, construction, and operation; inspecting public water systems and assuring that identified deficiencies are corrected; providing technical assistance to public water suppliers; providing financial assistance to construct safe drinking water infrastructure; and by certifying and training water system operators.

Drinking Water Services, in its current form, was created by the 1981 Oregon State Legislature through passage of the Oregon Drinking Water Quality Act (Oregon Revised



Statutes 448). The act mandated a comprehensive regulatory program for public water systems that combined technical assistance and training with development and enforcement of standards for water quality, system construction and operation.

Their goals are to:

- Reduce or prevent contamination of public drinking water supplies
- Improve water system operation and management through training and technical assistance programs for water system operators, managers, engineers, and laboratory staff
- Improve adequacy, reliability, and viability of public water systems
- Increase public knowledge, participation, and support for safe drinking water
- Conduct an efficient and effective regulatory program that implements federal Environmental Protection Agency safe drinking water standards and state drinking water regulations

CRWP members work closely with OHA Drinking Water Services to meet all drinking water quality standards for public water systems. Through the continued partnership with DWS our CRWP members are confident in supplying safe and reliable drinking water to our communities 24/7, 365 days a year.

To learn more about Oregon Drinking Water Services, and the programs and resources they provide public water systems go to: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/Pages/index.aspx>



Help Save Water and Money, Get a FREE Landscape Water Audit

The Clackamas River Water Providers offer free landscape water audits during the watering season (May-October) to the following member service areas: City of Estacada, Clackamas River Water, Sunrise Water Authority (City of Happy Valley and Damascus), City of Gladstone, Oak Lodge Water Services, and South Fork Water Board (Oregon City and West Linn).

Water use in our communities more than doubles during the summer months due to outdoor watering. Higher than normal outdoor water use is often the sign of inefficient use of water in our yards or an irrigation system that needs repair and/or scheduling adjustments. A landscape water audit is a way to get your irrigation system and landscape on track and running right.

Saving water and saving money is what a landscape water audit is all about. Our Landscape auditor will assess your lawn and garden areas, irrigation system and more. Residential landscape water audits often include but are not limited to;

- A walk through your yard and gardens including all lawn areas.

- Making note of existing soil types, plant material, naturally available water, and sun exposure.

- Locating the water meter, noting any existing leaks from the meter throughout the irrigation system.

- Locating the irrigation controller, making note of the make/model as well as the current schedule. Each zone will be ran separately recording gallons per minute used for each zone.

When the audit is complete you will receive a detailed report with all recommendations recorded such as irrigation and controller schedule adjustments for better water efficiency, and maintenance of existing plant material giving you the tools you need to better manage your outdoor water use.

The audits are available on a first come first serve basis. The audits will be approximately 1.5 hours, please be available to do the walk through with the auditor.

For more information about our free landscape water audit program and to how to apply, visit our website at <https://www.clackamasproviders.org/landscape-water-audits/>.



2024 Annual Water Calendar Voting

Each year the Clackamas River Water Providers holds a coloring contest with elementary schools in our member service areas to create our annual water calendar.

Students create pictures depicting each year's theme. The 2024 calendar theme is "Saving Water is Easy!". We typically receive around 600 pictures, and from these pictures 13 are chosen for the calendar. To determine which one of the 13 pictures will be on the front cover of the 2024 calendar,

we invite our students, their families, and our community members to cast their vote for their favorite picture. Casting your vote is easy, beginning Monday, May 1st visit our website where on our home page we will have a link to the calendar voting. Voting begins May 1st and ends May 12th.

Need a 2023 CRWP Water Calendar?

Email christine@clackamasproviders.org.

Spring Quiz:

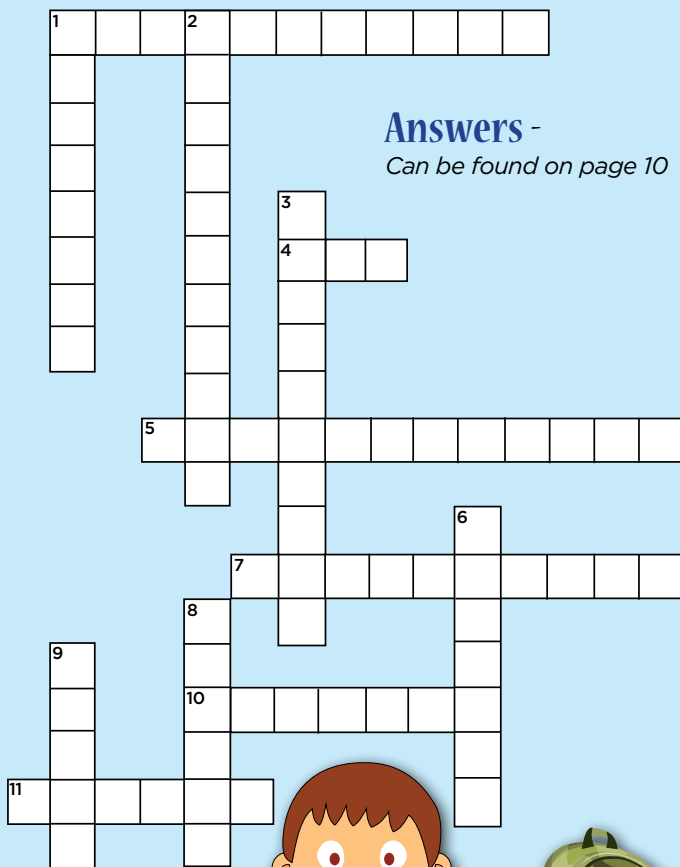
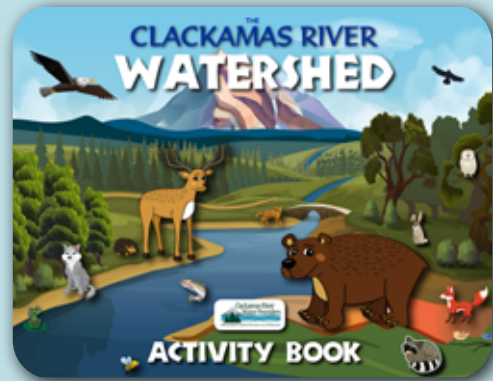
Answers

Question 1 - Answer is C
Question 2 - Answer is D

Question 3 - Answer is C
Question 4 - Answer is A

Water Conservation Crossword Puzzle!

The CRWP offers an [Activity Book](#) that teachers can use to help inform students about the importance and value of clean water, and how to protect this precious resource. It includes many cool games, puzzles, and activities to become more familiar with the Clackamas River Watershed where we get our high quality drinking water.



Down

1. Make sure you have a _____ when you are doing laundry.
2. What is it called when water turns from a liquid to a vapor?
3. You can save water by _____ your food instead of using a garbage disposal.
6. When it hasn't rained for a long time it is called a _____.
8. What time of year do we use the most water?
9. Use a _____ instead of a hose to clean off your driveway.

Across

1. How long should your shower be?
4. Turn _____ the faucet while you brush your teeth.
5. Another word for saving water:
7. What amount of earth's fresh water is available to use for drinking water?
10. What time of day is the best time to water your lawn and garden?
11. Don't use your _____ as a waste basket, each flush uses 3 –5 gallons of water.

Faces of Drinking Water *by Christine Hollenbeck*

Keeping in line with this E-newsletter's theme of drinking water treatment we interviewed Joe Rogers, the Operations Manager at the North Clackamas County Water Commission (NCCWC).

The NCCWC is owned and managed by Sunrise Water Authority, serving the City of Happy Valley and the Damascus area, Oak Lodge Water Services, and the City of Gladstone. During the winter months the average water production from the NCCWC is 5.5 Million Gallons per Day (MGD), while during the summer months the average water production for these communities is 15-16 MGD.

All drinking water treatment plants have basically the same processes in making drinking water, filter the water to remove the dirt, and disinfect the water to remove germs and bacteria. While the goal is the same each plant has their own way of doing this. The NCCWC is unique in their filtration process. This plant uses the oldest form of filtration, Slow sand, and the newest technology, membrane filtration. To see a video tour of the NCCWC treatment plant, [click here](#).

CRWP: How long have you been working for the NCCWC?

Joe: I have been here for 9 years, this August.

CRWP: What is your position?

Joe: Currently I am the Operations Manager. I manage all the treatment plant operations as well as personal.

CRWP: How did you acquire your position?

Joe: When I began working here 9 years ago, I was hired on as one of the treatment plant operators, and over the years I worked my way up to Operations Manager.

CRWP: What is your background prior to working in drinking water?

Joe: At the age of 40, the company I worked for moved over seas and I was forced to make a career change. I went through the Water Environmental Technology (WET) program at Clackamas Community College, and from there I worked at Intel making ultra-pure water for the fabrication of computer chips.

CRWP: What is your favorite/least favorite part of your Position?

Joe: My favorite part of the job is working on large projects. My least favorite part is doing the paperwork.

CRWP: Do you plan on retiring with North Clackamas County Water Commission?

Joe: Yes.

CRWP: : What accomplishments are you most proud of in your career?

Joe: Providing consistently safe and clean drinking water to our customers and, how we manage the upkeep and maintenance of our facility.

CRWP: What advice would you give to someone starting out in the field of Drinking water (What do you wish you knew your first week working NCCWC)?

Joe: Listen and learn from your peers and the more experienced operators.

CRWP: How has the industry changed since you started working at NCCWC?

Joe: I don't think it has changed that much in the 9 years that I have been at the plant, but the one thing that has changed, is the people I work with because of folks retiring.

Joe Rogers
Operations Manager
North Clackamas County
Water Commission



CRWP: What do you think is most important about your position at NCCWC?

Joe: Being proactive, not reactive, and problem solving.

CRWP: What would you like the public to know about their drinking water?

Joe: As a treatment plant operator I would like our customers to know their drinking water is safe %100 of the time.

CRWP: What can the public do to help make your job easier?

Joe: Conserve their water during the summer months.

CRWP: What's the most significant project you've been involved with in your career?

Joe: Currently we are putting new sand on the slow sand filters. This is the first time we have done this type of maintenance since I have been manager. It is the largest and most costly project I've been involved in so far.

CRWP: What's the one thing you can't live without at work?

Joe: Most definitely, my co-workers.

(Continued on page 10)

Faces continued

CRWP: What would you say H2O is to you?

Joe: It is my career, and of course it is life for all of us.

CRWP: What are the top priorities for your agency over the next few years? Next decade?

Joe: Replacing aging equipment and replacing the membranes filters in the membrane filtration system.

CRWP: What is the biggest challenge facing your organization in the next couple of years? What are the opportunities?

Joe: Our biggest challenge is aging infrastructure and how to replace it while being financially responsible.

CRWP: What's something people might be surprised to know about your agency?

Joe: To the best of my knowledge our treatment plant is the only plant in our area that uses the oldest form of filtration (Slow sand filtration) and the newest form (Membrane filtration) to filter our water.

CRWP: What do you do for fun outside of work?

Joe: I pick mushrooms, I spend time with my wife and my dogs. I ride my motorcycle, I like to go shooting, and spend time with my grand-daughter.

The CRWP appreciates all that Joe and our other treatment plant managers and operators do every day to ensure our member customers are receiving high quality drinking water 24/7, 365 days a year

Sign-up for Public Alerts

By providing your contact information as a county resident you can opt-in to receive critical emergency messaging via email, phone call and text during times of disaster. Important messages that could be relayed include notices to evacuate, shelter-in-place, shelter locations and other extremely important information. To learn more and sign up [click here](#).

By signing up you can receive emergency notifications for your home or other address (such as business).

#ClackCo
PublicAlerts

You will only be contacted when the associated address is affected by an emergency.

If the call is picked up by an answering machine, it will leave a message and not call back. If the number is busy or there is no answer, the system will try contacting your other contact methods. Once you have acknowledged receipt of a message on one device, the system will stop trying to contact your other devices.

Spring Quiz:

Answers

Question 1 - Answer is C

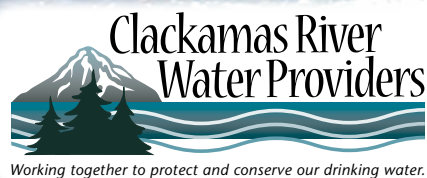
Question 2 - Answer is D

Question 3 - Answer is C

Question 4 - Answer is A

CROSSWORD ANSWERS:

DOWN: FULL LOAD/EVAPORATION/COMPOSTING/DROUGHT/SUMMER/BROOM
ACROSS: FIVE MINUTES/OFF/CONSERVE/ONE PERCENT/MORNING/TOILET



Working together to protect and conserve our drinking water.

14275 S Clackamas River Drive, Oregon City, OR 97045 • www.clackamasproviders.org

Our Members:



www.crwater.com



www.cityofestacada.org



www.ci.gladstone.or.us



www.ci.oswego.or.us



www.oaklodgewaterservices.org



www.sfwb.org



www.sunrisewater.com



www.tigard-or.gov

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