



# LAWN & LANDSCAPE WATERING GUIDE

All new and existing trees and plants must be properly watered. When watering, try to soak a plant's root zone thoroughly. The goal is to water less by watering more when we do water. By soaking the soil, the moisture stays longer and the plants' roots will grow down to get to the moisture. Light, frequent watering keeps the roots near the surface and plants run out of water quickly. A long, soaking water application is the goal. Remember, only you can control the amount of water needed for your lawn and garden.

## TIPS:

- The first tip is "every landscape is different." Solar orientation, existing soils and plants types all contribute to the water needs of your garden.
- New landscapes need a lot of water. Soak your grass until it is established and keep it wet. Do not walk on wet grass.
- If you have a drip irrigation system or bubblers you can water any day between 6pm and 10am. Check with your city water department to verify.
- Some irrigation system use all spray heads. New irrigation regulations require some areas to have drip irrigation tubes installed in the flower beds and parkways. The spray heads required 12 -15 minutes to soak a garden. Drip tubes require 30-45 minutes or more to water the same amount. Change your thinking and water longer.
- Check your landscape once a week. Look for drooping plants, sick plants, cracks in the soil and bugs on your plants. Watching the landscape will protect the investment in your home and landscape.
- Hand watering is the best way to water plants. DO NOT OVER WATER.
- **You must adjust the irrigation program after you move in to avoid over watering.**

## NEW LANDSCAPES:

Your new home has an irrigation system that was designed especially for your garden. If you have just moved into a new home or recently updated your landscape, the irrigation system has been programmed to water the plants that were just installed. ***You must adjust the irrigation program after you move / update in to avoid over watering.*** Use the schedule below as a starting point. Modify your system as the seasons change and the garden matures.

## NEW TREES:

All trees must be **hand watered or watered by bubbler daily for the first 2 weeks.** After that, water 2-3 times a week except when temperature is below 70 degrees, then water once a week. Once established, water 1-2 times per week. Place a water hose at the base of trees. Use a slow stream of water to let the equivalent of 15 gallons of water soak into the tree. If your tree has a tree bubbler as part of the irrigation system, check the bubbler to make sure it is open and water is flowing. Set the timer to water for 7-8 minutes. The water should fill the water ring around the base of the tree and some may overflow. Monitor to make sure that the tree is receiving the right amount and that the water is soaking in. Too much water will kill trees quickly.

## LAWNS:

Grass only dies from lack of water. New sod needs lots of water and you may need to water multiple times per day. As you increase the frequency decrease the amount of water by 20%. Example with spray heads:

- 80 degrees and below - 1 time for 10 minutes.
- 80 to 95 degrees - 2 times per day for 12 minutes.
- 100 degrees - 2 times a day for 15 minutes.

## GARDENS:

Water new gardens once a day for the first 2 weeks. Remember, saturate then let dry out. Gardens with southern and western exposure will need more water. Most garden will have drip tubes under the mulch and it is hard to tell if the irrigation is working. Periodically you must check the moisture content of your soil. Look at the plants and watch for signs of stress. After the garden is established, water



**SCHEDULE:**

**Change your watering schedule several times each year.** We recommend the following schedule under normal temperatures. When the day time temperature exceeds 85 degrees for more than 3 days, reset the program to water 3 times per week and maintain until the temperature recedes.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	1

**HOW LONG SHOULD YOU WATER?**

Set the Irrigation controller timer per the type of head and the location. Be aware that the following run times are based on full sun exposure. Decrease time for shade areas. Do not run side yards (less than 7 feet wide) for more than 5 minutes. Most small side yards require only 3 minutes. **REMEMBER ALL LANDSCAPES ARE DIFFERENT.**

TYPE OF PLANT	METHOD OF WATERING	HOW LONG TO WATER	NEW LANDSCAPE	SPRING & SUMMER	FALL & WINTER
Shade Trees	Tree Bubblers or Hand Water (required in extreme heat)	7-8 minutes Flood the water ring at base of tree	Hand water daily for first two weeks	2-3x per week (first year) then 2x per week	2-3x per week depending on temperatures
Ornamental Trees, Small Trees & Shrubs; Annuals, Perennials & Groundcover	Sprinkler System or Hand Water (required in extreme heat)	12-15 minutes (Spray Heads)  30-45 minutes (Drip Tubing)	Hand water daily for first two weeks	3x per week . Increase time in a drought.	2-3x per week (first year) then 1x per week
Sod & Turf	Sprinkler System or Hand Water (required in extreme heat)	12-15 minutes (Pop Up Heads)  24-30 minutes (Rotary Heads)  40-45 minutes (Drip Tubing)	Water daily for first two weeks -Or- until established	Every 3-4 days or twice per day in a drought.	Every 4-7 days

**STANDING WATER:**

Monitor frequency, duration and coordinate usage with your neighbor so that you water on different days.

**WATER RESTRICTIONS:**

If your city only allows watering once or twice a week, set your controller to come on twice per day on the days allowed. Water at 3:00 a.m. and again after 6:00 p.m. Saturate the lawn and garden and let dry out before the next watering day.

**Protect your investment, your landscape and the environment by monitoring your watering.**

**Inspect your landscape each week for best results.**