



## Customizing Your Watering Plan

First, overwatering your lawn is a mistake that is often made. When your lawn is too wet, you run the risk of the root system staying too damp which increases lawn disease activity and root rot. This is what ultimately causes brown spots that aren't directly related to sun damage or dryness. If the season is rainy and damp, you may see brown spots and wonder why they are appearing. Then you will often try to water more to fix the problem. You should not need to water your lawn for at least 2 days after a heavy rain! Overwatering typically occurs mostly in the cooler months like April, May & September.

During the dry and hot season of July & August you can customize your watering schedule to get the most benefit to your lawn and its root system. To start, you will need to place a casserole dish or flat pan out in a level area of the yard and run your sprinklers. Start timing, and when the depth of the water reaches  $\frac{3}{4}$ " you can stop. That is the length of time to use when watering your lawn in July & August. This often takes anywhere from 45-90 minutes per zone.

Now that you've figured out that length of time to accumulate  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of water, you will want to use it only every 3<sup>rd</sup> day. That's it, just every 3 days. You want about 2" of water ***per week*** through the end of August. By doing these deep waterings you will cause your lawns root system to grow deeper into the soil. The roots are going to go where the moisture is. If you are only keeping the upper most portion of the soil moist your lawn will have a shallow root system. These longer, deeper waterings will cause the root system to grow further down into the soil which is a great thing!

The other key to a great lawn is when the days are very sunny and hot (90+ degrees); you want to cool down the surface temperature of the lawn and soil. If you were to check the soil temp at this time of day it could be upwards of 110 degrees. At around Noon-2pm on hot, sunny 90 degree days, you should run the system for **5 minutes** just to bring the temp down on the surface. This will lower the surface temp of the soil closer to 75 degrees which will temporarily relieve the lawn of the heat stress it is going through on those days. This will help prevent the lawn from turning brown and going dormant.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. There are many, many ways to water your lawn, this is just one way that has worked well for us on many of the properties that we maintain. If you have any questions please let me know. I love talking about this stuff and I am always willing to help.

***Check out this sample watering plan on the next page...***

### Sample Watering Plan for a 9 zone system

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
Zone 1-3	Zone 4-6	Zone 7-9	Zone 1-3	Zone 4-6	Zone 7-9	NONE
<i>*60 Minutes</i>	<i>*60 minutes</i>	<i>*60 minutes</i>	<i>*60 minutes</i>	<i>*60 minutes</i>	<i>*60 minutes</i>	NONE
3am Start	3am Start	3am Start	3am Start	3am Start	3am Start	NONE
*****						
Zone 1-9	Zone 1-9	Zone 1-9	Zone 1-9	Zone 1-9	Zone 1-9	Zone 1-9
5 Minutes	5 Minutes	5 Minutes	5 Minutes	5 Minutes	5 Minutes	5 Minutes
1pm Start	1pm Start	1pm Start	1pm Start	1pm Start	1pm Start	1pm Start

*\*This is the length of time you've customized from the steps on page 1.*

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