

## Watering your lawn

Did you know that nearly half the summertime water used by local homes goes toward lawn watering?

Lawns need to be watered only once every three days to remain healthy and green, yet many are overwatered and unhealthy.

Here's a tried-and-true method for determining how long to operate your sprinklers if you water every third day.

Remember to change your irrigation timer seasonally!

Monthly adjustments are encouraged.



**Spring**  
Mar. 15 - May 14



**Summer**  
May 15 - Sept. 14



**Fall**  
Sept. 15 - Nov. 14



**Winter**  
Nov. 15 - Mar. 14

### Lawn Problems?

Consult a landscape professional, or check with your local nursery or your local water purveyor.

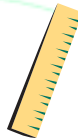
## Measure sprinkler output



Place five or more straight-sided cans or coffee mugs randomly around your lawn.



Run your system for 15 minutes.



With a ruler, measure the depth of the water in each can or mug.



Then determine the average water depth of the containers. Multiply the average by 4 to get the hourly precipitation rate. Use the hourly precipitation rate with the table on page 15.

**SOME WATER PURVEYORS PROVIDE ASSISTANCE OR SERVICE TO HELP WITH THIS TEST.**

# Determine how long to water your lawn

		TOTAL WEEKLY WATERING RUN TIMES											
		Minutes to water each week in the Sacramento Valley based on hourly sprinkler output											
Hourly Precipitation Rate		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>WARM SEASON TURF</b> Bermuda grass and Zoysia grass	5"	19 min.	44 min.	69 min.	101 min.	126 min.	158 min.	164 min.	145 min.	113 min.	82 min.	38 min.	19 min.
	1"	9 min.	22 min.	35 min.	50 min.	63 min.	79 min.	82 min.	72 min.	57 min.	41 min.	19 min.	9 min.
	1.5"	6 min.	15 min.	23 min.	34 min.	42 min.	53 min.	55 min.	48 min.	38 min.	27 min.	13 min.	6 min.
	2"	5 min.	11 min.	17 min.	25 min.	32 min.	39 min.	41 min.	36 min.	28 min.	20 min.	9 min.	5 min.
<b>COOL SEASON TURF</b> fescues, Kentucky Bluegrass and perennial ryegrass	5"	25 min.	59 min.	92 min.	134 min.	168 min.	210 min.	218 min.	193 min.	151 min.	109 min.	50 min.	25 min.
	1"	13 min.	29 min.	46 min.	67 min.	84 min.	105 min.	109 min.	97 min.	76 min.	55 min.	25 min.	13 min.
	1.5"	8 min.	20 min.	31 min.	45 min.	56 min.	70 min.	73 min.	64 min.	50 min.	36 min.	17 min.	8 min.
	2"	6 min.	15 min.	23 min.	34 min.	42 min.	53 min.	55 min.	48 min.	38 min.	27 min.	13 min.	6 min.

**NOTE:** Use this watering chart as a guide only.  
 During winter months, water only during extended dry periods.  
 Source – "Lawn Diseases: Integrated Pest Management in the Home Landscape – Publication 7497, UC IPM"

Remember, the ground is like a sponge. To make sure it can absorb all the water your lawn needs, divide your total watering time into two or three cycles. For example, if your lawn requires 18 minutes of watering, don't water once for 18 minutes; instead, water three times for six minutes each. Water between 12 midnight and 10 a.m., avoiding the peak water use times of 5 to 8 a.m. if possible.

### IRRIGATION FREQUENCY:

Although the preferred watering frequency is no more than 3 times per week, you may need to water more frequently if your lawn soil is compacted, if the lawn has a thick layer of thatch or if it is on a slope. Ideally, you should aerate or dethatch, so water can percolate through the soil. If that is not possible, you may need to water every other day during the hot summer months.