

Lawn Watering and Care Guide



Lawn watering consumes nearly half of the water used by most homes during the warmest months of the year. Many of us water too often and too long. Most lawns need to be watered no more than three (3) days a week in the spring and in the summer (four days if extremely hot) and two (2) days a week in the fall to remain healthy and green. Overwatering also encourages disease. However, an under-watered lawn is both unhealthy and unattractive.

Conservation Ideas for Watering Lawns

There are various alternatives to lawns, such as ground covers, low growing shrubs, or hardscaping. If a lawn is necessary component of your landscape, consider these tips:

- + Minimize or reduce lawn areas.
- + Consider replacing established or unhealthy lawn areas with more water conserving types.
- + Install a sprinkler system to deliver water uniformly.
- + Use automatic timers.
- + Use the following lawn watering practices.

Lawn Watering Practices

Deep Watering: watering frequently encourages shallow root growth and unhealthy grass. Deep, less frequent watering encourages grass roots to grow deeper into the soil reservoir from which to draw moisture. A deep root also means the lawn will be less affected by surface dying.

Water Absorption: many sprinklers apply water faster than the soil can absorb. To ensure the soil can absorb all the water your lawn needs, divide your watering times into two or three periods.

Water Sprinkler Layout: sprinklers for lawn areas should be spaced so that water from each sprinkler head reaches the next sprinkler head. This is called head-to-head coverage. Apply water evenly and avoid runoff and over-spray.

Timing: how long and how frequent you should water your lawn depends on several factors; how fast your sprinklers apply water, your soil type, the health of your lawn and the weather.

Adjust watering schedules with the seasons. Water less often in the cool weather of fall and spring and more during the summer. DO NOT WATER DURING THE WET SEASON, locally November to March, depending on the year.

Set your sprinklers to come on in the early morning to give the water time to soak in before it evaporates by the heat of the sun.