

Efficient Landscape Irrigation Tips

Before the true heat of the summer hits, it is recommended that residents do the following to maintain healthy lawns and landscaping while also being good consumers of water.

1. Make sure that the irrigation system is operating properly as described in the maintenance section.
2. Avoid watering if the soil is still wet.
3. Water to meet the needs of plants.
4. Review how to set irrigation days, zone start times, run times and multiple cycles on your controller.
5. To reduce water loss from evaporation, water at night when it is cooler and there is less wind. Water between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. or according to local water restrictions.
6. Use multiple start times or manually practice soak and cycle irrigation to avoid runoff water waste. Especially important on slopes and compacted soils, water and allow to soak in before applying more water. On clay soils, operate spray heads no more than 8 minutes and rotor heads a maximum of 24 minutes before stopping at least 30 minutes to allow water to soak in.
7. Apply water slowly enough that runoff and puddling does not occur.
8. Water as infrequently as possible, without causing undue stress to the lawn and other landscape plants.
9. Hand-watering small or isolated dry spots can allow extending the time between watering by another day without watering the entire lawn.
10. Consider water efficient drip irrigation for shrub borders, flower and vegetable gardens. Drip irrigation exceeds 90 percent efficiency whereas sprinkler systems are 50 to 70 percent efficient.

Watering Guide for Texas Landscapes

Use the QR code to learn more about watering in Texas conditions or click on the QR code to go to the webpage.



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