



with your soil's watering needs one time, after that, you'll know how long it will take to apply an inch of water.

Don't forget to include rainwater in your water total. Check your rain gauge - if your lawn has gotten an inch of rainwater within a week or so, you probably don't need to water. If it's gotten a half inch of water, you only need to supplement that with another half inch.

Please keep in mind that if your landscape is accustomed to being watered every other day, you may need to slowly cut back on your watering. The roots may be shallow and they will need some time to grow, so it may take a few weeks before you can "wean your lawn."

Water Your Lawn Only When It Needs It

Watch your lawn for signs of stress. If the St. Augustine blades of grass "roll", if the Bermuda gets a bluish cast or if you leave foot prints on the grass after walking on it, your lawn needs water.

The best time to water is in the early morning, when evaporation rates are at their lowest, there is little wind and water pressure is at its best. Grasses are also less likely

to develop diseases or pest problems if watered in the morning.

Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller drops and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.

Remember the Ordinance Guidelines

- Hand water or use a soaker hose. Both are permitted at any time
- Repair any broken, missing or misdirected sprinkler heads
- Automatic irrigation systems must have rain and freeze sensors installed
- Monitor your total water usage. If you use more than 15,000 gallons a month, you'll pay a surcharge on the amount above 15,000
- Be sure not to water during any form of precipitation
- Don't allow your sprinkler system to water driveways, sidewalks or streets
- Don't allow water to runoff onto a street or other drainage area when you're watering
- Don't water your yard between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. from April 1 to October 31

For more information on ways to conserve water or any of these programs and initiatives contact:

City of Dallas Water Utilities
Water Conservation Division
1500 Marilla Street, Room 5AS
Dallas, TX 75201
(214) 670-3155

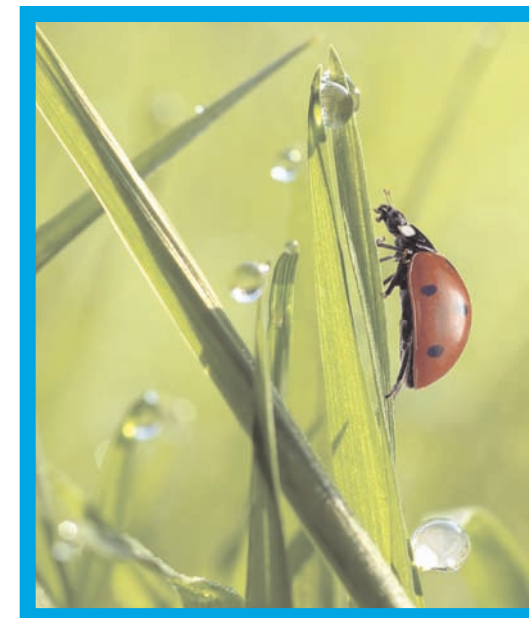
www.SaveDallasWater.com



Publication No. 09/10-X



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City of Dallas
Water Conservation

Get a **FREE**
Irrigation System
Check-up!

No Strings Attached!



Save Water.
Nothing Can Replace It!



Free Irrigation System Check-up

As a service to our customers, Dallas Water Utilities is conducting FREE automatic irrigation system check-ups.

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) has determined that homes with in-ground automatic irrigation systems use 35% more water than those without irrigation systems. And those households using automatic timers for their irrigation systems use 47% more than their neighbors with in-ground systems operating their systems manually.

Poor irrigation scheduling—watering too often and for too long—is the primary source of water waste associated with landscape irrigation. You may be using a lot more water than your lawn needs and if you are a Dallas Water Utilities customer, you can have a FREE irrigation system check-up by a certified landscape irrigation specialist. These check-ups have saved other customers hundreds of dollars per year on their water bill.

“I learned how to more effectively water my lawn and save money immediately.” Ron O.

These check-ups can help improve the efficiency of your existing irrigation system by identifying:

- Programming errors
- Leaks in the system
- Broken or misaligned equipment
- Problems with pressure (too high or too low)
- Coverage problems

The Irrigation Specialists will also make recommendations such as:

- Programming suggestions
- Turf water requirements
- Possible equipment upgrades
- Repair and maintenance tips

Our goal in Water Conservation is to help you save water! All suggestions are subject to the homeowner’s discretion, but each suggestion will save you money.

Learn How to Water Your Lawn Properly

There are a number of factors that will determine how much water your lawn needs and the frequency of watering. What type of grass you have, the slope of your lawn, how much sun or shade your yard gets and what type of soil are all big factors that impact how you should water. Clay soils (our “black gumbo”) will hold water longer but are difficult to water without runoff. Several short



water cycles can help penetration. Sandy soils may require short and more frequent waterings. Likewise, southern or western exposures will need more frequent watering than north facing or shaded areas.

Many people think they must water every day or every other day to have green and healthy turf. This is a common misconception that wastes water and actually weakens your lawn. Horticulturalists recommend watering your lawn deeply and infrequently to promote a strong root system.

Most grasses only need one inch of water every five to ten days in the heat of summer. How long must you water to apply one inch? It depends on the type of irrigation equipment, water pressure, wind and how much sun your yard gets. To measure how much water your system puts out, set out several six ounce tuna or cat food cans in the path of your sprinklers. These cans are one inch deep, so when they are full, you’ve applied one inch of water! Be sure to watch for run-off on some soils that cannot absorb the water quickly. You may need to water these soils for a few minutes to soften the soil, wait 10 or 15 minutes and then resume watering. While this may sound like a lot of effort, you’ll only have to “get acquainted”