



10 STEPS TO WISE WATERING

Water Lawns and Planting Beds According to Their Needs

- Check soil moisture before watering by inserting a 6-inch screwdriver into the soil. If the screwdriver can be easily inserted, you don't need to water.

Know When to Water

- Watering only 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., never during the heat of the day or when the wind is blowing.
- When footprints or mower tracks are visible on the turf or there are large bluish-gray patches, it's time to water.
- In winter water once or twice a month during dry, warm months.
- Deep-root water trees within the dripline* to a depth of 12".
*The dripline is the area at the ground level that mirrors the canopy of the tree.

Brown Spots?

- Respond to brown spots with targeted hand watering.
- Check the coverage of sprinklers or improperly adjusted heads/nozzles.
- Look for broken lines or heads and clogged nozzles that result in poor spray patterns.

When to Skip the Water

- Cool, cloudy days or days following ½ inch or more of rain help extend the time between watering.

Your Sprinkler System

- Upgrade or install drip irrigation or underground watering systems to help limit evaporation and water roots more efficiently.
- Design or redesign your yard to include separate watering zones for trees, flowerbeds, gardens and lawns.
- Verify watering time is appropriate for each zone. A shade zone requires less water than a hot, sunny area. Cooler seasons require less water compared to hot summer months. Adjust the length of watering time per zone from spring to fall; cooler months require shorter watering cycles, warmer months require more water more often.



- Check your timer to ensure it meets your local watering restrictions.
- Consider installing timer upgrades.

Watering with a Hose?

- Use household timers to remind you to move or stop soaker hoses and sprinklers.
- Check sprinklers to verify adequate watering levels – you can do this easily by using a shallow dish to measure the water collected and determine watering time.

Aeration is Crucial to a Healthy Lawn

- Aeration relieves soil compaction and allows better water, air and fertilizer penetration resulting in less water run-off and better plant health.
- For best results aerate under moderate moisture conditions.

Mow Efficiently

- Set your mower at the highest level possible and make sure the blade is sharp.
- Leave clippings on the lawn to recycle nutrients back into the soil.

Fertilizing

- Consider applying iron fertilizers moderately. Reduce nitrogen application rates.
- Fertilize in summer with a slow-release fertilizer, in the fall follow product recommendations.

Mulch

- Apply mulch to reduce evaporation, retain moisture, and control weeds.