

Take A Day Off

If you are a typical urban California residential water user, over half the water you pay for hits the dirt — your lawn, flowerbeds, and gardens. By testing your watering system, you can reduce your landscape water by 20 to 40 % without any adverse effects.

Save time, money, and water and still have the best looking yard in your neighborhood! Here's how, take a day off.

LEE LAKE WATER DISTRICT

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Geographic Area Lawn Watering Guide

Average water depth in cans (inches) after	Number of Minutes to Water Twice Weekly		
	15 minutes	Spring	Summer
1/8	57	107	56
1/4	28	53	28
5/16	23	42	22
3/8	19	35	18
1/2	14	26	14
5/8	11	21	11
3/4	9	17	9
1	7	13	7

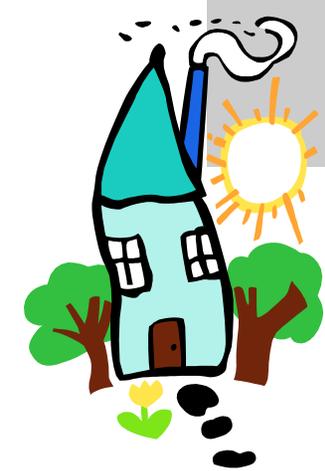
Lawn Water Guide

Directions:

1. Set 3 flat bottom cans or coffee mugs at various places on your lawn.
2. Turn on your sprinkler(s) for 15 minutes.
3. Measure the depth of water in each can with a ruler and determine the average water depth.
4. Check the above chart for the water depth in inches according to the season.
5. Read the number of minutes you should water about every third day and record the times for future reference.

Use these times as a guide only. You may need to water more when it's extra hot or less when it's cool. If you have automatic sprinklers, be sure to turn them off when it rains.

Residential Landscape Watering



Steps for a Green Healthy Lawn

Steps to a Green Healthy Lawn

1. Use the Lawn Watering Guide' to determine your lawn watering needs.

Whether sprinklers are underground or attached to the end of a hose, follow the directions on the Guide to calculate your watering times. Underground sprinklers will require separate measurement for each water line calculation. Try to conduct the test when you would normally water so that water pressure will be the same.

2. Get to know how plants signal for water.

Grass that needs watering lies flat when you step on it. Some plants lose their gloss and start to droop a littler before wilting. The time to water is when the plants need it, rigid watering schedules waste water.

3. Train your plants to develop deep roots.

Water thoroughly but infrequently. Deeper roots allow plants to use moisture deep in the ground. Plants will be healthier and stronger.

4. Avoid watering on windy days.

When you water on windy day much of the water evaporates or blows away. Windy day watering means you pay to water the streets and neighbor's yards.

5. Avoid watering in the middle of the day.

Water early in the morning before 6:00 a.m. Evenings after 8:00 p.m. is second best because in some areas fungus attacks moist foliage overnight. During the high water use months of July and August early

morning watering avoids the peak-demand use period of the day.

6. Adjust sprinklers to water plants only.

Watering the sidewalk, driveway, patio or street is a waste of water and money. Make sure that coverage is even so that you don't have to drown one area in order to get enough water on another.

7. Split your watering time.

If water flows off the grass into the gutter, split the water time into two sessions to allow the soil to absorb the water. Where soil is sandy, water may percolate below the grass root zone. Compensate by splitting the watering time into two blocks.

8. Use a kitchen timer.

It will help you to remember to turn sprinklers off if you do not have an automatic system.

9. Plant warm season grasses.

Warm season grasses can use 20% less water than cool season grasses. Warm season grasses that turn brown become dormant in the winter but they are best adapted to our hot summers because they are drought tolerant. Cool season grasses grow and are green year round. However, they require more water, must be cut more frequently, and are more susceptible to disease.

The chart above shows the varying characteristics of most Southern California turfgrasses.

Maintenance of Southern California Turfgrasses

	Establishment		Maintenance		Irrigation
	Time	Rate (lbs. Seed or bu./1000 sf)	Mowing Height (in.)	Fertilization	Root Depth/ Water Freq.
Warm-Season Grasses					
Common bermuda (Cynodon Dactylon)	Late Spring Early Sum.	1 lb.	1"	Spr./Sum./ Fall	60"/ Infreq.
Hybrid Bermuda * (Cynodon spp.)	Late Spring Early Sum.	4-6 bu. or sod	1/2" - 3/4"	Spr./Sum./ Fall	60"/ Infreq.
St. Augustine * (Stenotaphrum secundatum)	Late Spring Early Sum.	3-5 bu. or sod	3/4" - 1-1/4"	Spr./Sum./ Fall	12" - 24"/ Mod. Freq.
Zoysia * (Zoysia spp.)	Late Spring Early Sum.	4-6 bu. or sod	3/4" - 1"	Spr./Sum./ Fall	60"/ Infreq.
Cool-Season Grasses					
Kentucky Bluegrass (Poa pratensis)	Fall or Spr.	2-3 lbs. or sod	1-1/2"	Fall/Spr. 4-6 lb./yr.	6" - 12"/ Freq.
Perennial Ryegrass (Lollum perenne)	Fall or Spr.	6 lbs.	1-1/2"	Fall/Spr. 4 lb./yr.	6" - 12"/ Freq.
Tall Fescue (Festuca arundinacea)	Fall or Spr.	10 lbs.	1-1/2" - 3"	Fall/Spr. 2-4 lb./yr.	18" - 30"/ Freq.

* These grasses are grown from plant material not seed and are sold by volume (bushels.)



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