

**BE AWARE
DON'T WATER
FROM
10 AM TO 6 PM**

WEBER BASIN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

2837 East Highway 193 • Layton, Utah 84040 • (801) 771-1677

More Water-Wise Irrigation Tips

Don't Water on Automatic-Respond to Your Lawn's Need, Not Your Habit!

Your lawn will adapt easily to an every-three-day watering pattern; in fact, you can even water less frequently. If nature helps out, so much the better! Check to see if rainfall is meeting your lawn's needs. Here's a tip: let nature sprinkle your lawn as late into the spring as possible before you begin to irrigate, and you'll be helping your lawn develop deep healthy roots.

To determine if your lawn is getting enough water, try this simple test. Stick a screwdriver in the ground. If it goes in too easily, cut back on your watering. If it's a struggle to get it in, increase your watering duration, then adjust frequency based on soil type and season.

Don't Water Everything the Same

Water the lawn separately from plant beds and trees because these areas need deeper and less frequent watering than the lawn.

Soil and Lawns

Water Patterns in the Soil

Different soils have different water intake rates. For example, water moves quickly through sandy soil, seeping deeply into it rather than spreading out. Therefore, it doesn't take much water to wet the roots. In loam (sand, clay and organic soil), the water spreads out and down. In clay soil, the water travels slowly, spreading more to the sides than moving downward.

Application Rate vs. Soil Intake Rate

In the same way different yards have different soils, yards also vary in slope and exposure. This means you need to monitor your irrigation to make sure your application rate doesn't exceed your soil's intake rate. If you are applying too much water at one setting you will notice run off (if you're on a slope) or ponding. If this occurs, simply divide your watering time into several shorter cycles to achieve your goal. This way, your first irrigation cycle will have had time to sink into the soil and create a suction that will make penetration easier on your second irrigation cycle.

Water By the Light of the Moon

Watering between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. can reduce evaporation loss by 15 to 20 percent. Because our climate is typically dry, this practice won't create mildew or fungus on your lawn unless you water too much. **Always avoid watering during the heat of the day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Get into the habit of checking your system to ensure that it works without breaks or sprinkler problems if you are watering while you are sleeping.

Do Get Into the Maintenance Habit!

Check your irrigation system on a regular basis to ensure top performance. Routinely check the coverage of sprinkler heads and adjust them if they're creating runoff on walks and driveways. Before the first freeze, be sure to drain and clear the system of water to avoid leaks and breaks. Be sure the batteries (if any) are fresh and the clock will keep on time.

Don't Get Into a Fog

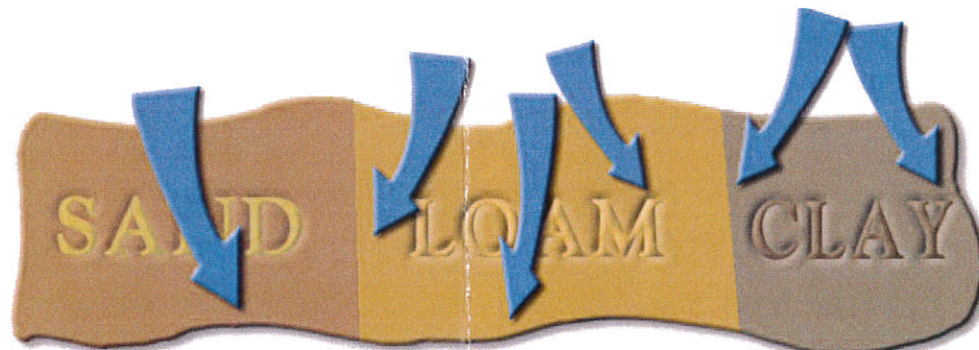
If your system's spray pattern is creating a fine mist or fog, reduce the operating pressure or adjust the nozzles to eliminate the mist. When you do, you'll reduce water loss that's due to evaporation and wind drifting by 20% to 25%

More About Soil

Clay soil can only absorb about 1/4-inch of water an hour. Therefore, the most efficient watering schedule for this soil would be to set each zone to deliver no more than 1/4-inch for each cycle. The time needed to deliver this 1/4-inch may differ from zone to zone, depending on the spacing and kind of sprinkler head you're using.

Clay soils need quite a bit of water to soak down 12 inches deep. This type of soil can absorb more water if a second cycle is started within an hour or two of the first cycle, delivering another 1/4-inch of water in the same area for a total of 1/2-inch per watering day.

While many lawns look great even when watered only once every three to four days, lawns in really sandy soil may need more frequent irrigation. Repeat cycles are best for this soil type and allow for deeper root watering and less runoff. Don't apply more than 1/4-inch of water per cycle.



Be Water Smart

Use Water Efficient Landscaping Principles



**WEBER BASIN WATER
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**
weberbasin.com

Determine Your Lawn Watering Needs

It may surprise you to learn that over half of the water used by home owners is for lawn watering. That's because everyone wants a great-looking yard. And why not? Attractive lawns and landscapes improve your home's property value and provide a constant source of pleasure and pride. Here's the good news; maintaining a great looking lawn doesn't have to conflict with conservation principles. In fact, with a bit of planning, and small changes in behavior, the two go hand in hand. The following information will show you how easy it is to maintain an attractive lawn that's beautiful and water-wise, too. Just follow the procedures we've outlined throughout this brochure, and you'll be on your way to an efficient irrigation schedule and a lush, green lawn.

Turf studies have shown that most lawns only need to be watered once every 3 to 4 days to stay healthy and green. Watering everyday creates shallow roots. Watering infrequently develops deep roots and healthier turf. Grass roots grow deeper into the soil and become stronger with less watering. Water only when needed and for the proper length of time for a healthy lawn with less water.

Following is a lawn water schedule you can use as a guide. Your lawn may need more water when it's extra hot or less when it's cool. Water less when it rains. Avoid watering on windy days or midday when the evaporation level is the highest. Proper lawn watering can save a lot of water.

How Much is Enough?

A Simple Test to Determine Your Lawn Watering Needs

Before you can create an efficient watering schedule, you need to determine how much water your lawn is getting from your irrigation system. This test will give you that information; it's based on measurements taken from different zones in your yard. A zone is a specific area of your landscape served by a series of sprinkler heads on one valve.

Just follow these simple steps.

1. Set 3 or more flat bottom cans or coffee mugs at various places on your lawn at least 4 feet from sprinkler heads.
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 in cans by adding up all the measurements and dividing by the number of containers you used.
4. Match your sprinkler output with the table below. Then water the number of minutes indicated.*

*For a FREE water check please call: 801-771-1677

Lawn Watering Guide

Water Depth in Cans	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	3/8	1/2	5/8	3/4	1
SEASONS	watering time in minutes								
SPRING <small>(water every 4 days)</small>	52	34	26	20	17	13	10	9	6
SUMMER <small>(water every 3 days)</small>	104	69	52	41	35	26	21	17	13
FALL <small>(water every 4 days)</small>	69	51	39	31	26	19	15	13	10

Remember to use repeated short watering cycles to reduce runoff.

Green It Up: More Tips for a Healthy Lawn

Aeration

A regular aeration schedule is important to the health of your lawn. Aeration once per year on average residential lawns is sufficient, whereas high traffic areas may need aeration 2 or more times per year. Aerate in the spring or fall. Aeration can help in heavy clay or sandy soils to improve water and air movement to roots, and if you topdress with fine compost after core aeration it can improve your soil and help provide nutrients to your lawn.

Fertilization

For the average residential lawn, two applications of fertilizer are sufficient. Fertilizing too frequently or at the wrong times can create extra stress on the lawn requiring more water demand and lowering disease and bug resistance. It can also cause you much more work as the rapid growth will require mowing more frequently.

It is recommended that a good fertilizer blend of 16-16-16 or 10-10-10 be used. A fall application in late October or early November will supply sufficient nutrients for good root growth through the cold months and good green up in the spring. An application in late spring will provide adequate green and nourishment through the hot summer months. Proper fertilization with correct irrigation and mowing will result in beautiful healthy lawns.

Mowing Height

Set the blade height on your mower so that you keep the grass at a height of 3 inches. This shades the soil and prevents both excess drying and evaporation. This also promotes deep and healthy roots.

Watch the Sprinkler Clock

Millions of gallons are wasted every year by sprinkler systems running in the rain and clocks still programmed for mid-summer schedules in the spring or fall. To prevent this from happening adjust your clock monthly, and use a rain sensor to shut it down during rain.



Weber Basin's Water Conservation Learning Garden

7 Principles for lush, colorful, healthy and smart water efficient landscapes.

- Planning and design
- Know your soil type
- Proper plant selection (the right plant in the right place, grouped with plants of similar water needs)
- Appropriate lawn areas
- Efficient irrigation (proper scheduling)
- Proper use of mulches
- Regular maintenance

Visit our Learning Garden to see examples of these principles and see great plants that work in our climate.



The Learning Garden

As part of an overall public education effort and as an example and demonstration to the public on proper landscaping and water efficient practices, the District has constructed a Water Conservation Learning Garden. It is approximately two acres in size and provides the public an opportunity to see and learn a variety of proper landscape information. The water saving landscape principles that are demonstrated include: proper planning and design, proper use of beautiful plant material (right plants in the right places), proper use of turf, efficient irrigation, various irrigation system methods, soils, mulches and maintenance. Visitors can see various turf varieties, mulches, native plants, hardscaping ideas, vegetable raised beds and example front and back yards meant to provide ideas and education to all visitors. The Learning Garden was completed in 2008 and is maturing and improving each year. As it continues to mature the Learning Garden will be a valuable asset and will provide a valuable resource to the public on how to have beautiful landscaping while reducing outdoor water needs.

The Garden is located at the District headquarters site at 2837 E. Highway 193 (Hill Field Road) in Layton, Utah. The Garden is free to the public and is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. May through October and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. through the winter. It is anticipated and hoped that thousands of residents will visit the garden each year and use the information in their own landscapes.

There are activities and classes held at the Learning Garden each year. Visit the District website at www.weberbasin.com for details. All activities are free to the public.