

Water Plan

Turfgrasses vary in their need for water. In rank order from the greatest need for water to least need for water:

1. **Kentucky Bluegrass** 🌱 🌱 🌱 🌱 🌱
2. **Perennial Ryegrass** 🌱 🌱 🌱 🌱
3. **Tall Fescue** 🌱 🌱 🌱
4. **Zoysiagrass** 🌱 🌱
5. **Buffalograss** 🌱

During the driest period of summer our lawns usually require about one inch of water every five to six days. Most hose sprinklers put out one-fourth to one-third inch of water per hour, so they would need to run approximately 3-4 hours in one spot. If water runs off the lawn before one inch is applied, turn the sprinkler off, let the water soak in for about two hours, then continue watering.

The best time to water is early in the morning, so less water is lost by evaporation. The worst time to water is in the evening because the lawn stays wet all night, which encourages disease development. Lawns watered too frequently tend to develop shallow root systems, which may make them more susceptible to grub damage and heat/drought stress.

Water Use Tips

In the summer, half the water piped into our homes goes out through hoses onto lawns and gardens. Here are a few tips which will make each drop count:

- Sprinklers running longer than they should waste water. Set a kitchen timer as a reminder to turn off sprinklers, or purchase a timer for your outdoor faucet.
- Driveways, sidewalks and gutters don't need watering. Avoid watering on windy days when sprinkler coverage is difficult to predict.
- Adjust sprinklers to water only the lawn, not the driveway or other non-lawn surfaces.
- Measure the output of sprinklers with empty tuna or cat food cans.

Make each drop count!

