



LAWN WATERING Q & A



<http://www.wateriq.org>

Know How Much Water Your Lawn Needs – Be Brazos Valley Water Smart!

Go to <http://bvwatersmart.tamu.edu/> for weekly watering recommendations based on weather conditions in your neighborhood. Suggested run times for different sprinkler types are provided to help you easily put a recommended amount of water on your landscape.



How Often to Water?

The best watering frequency is to water only when plants show signs of stress, such as curled leaves and footprints in turf after walking over it. Twice per week watering is usually adequate for most of the growing season. Brazos Valley Water Smart provides customized watering recommendations on a 2-day per week schedule.

How Long to Water?

How long to water depends on your sprinkler’s ***application rate***. This is usually given in terms of inches per hour. Rotor type sprinkler heads typically apply 0.5 inches per hour, and fixed spray heads can apply 1 – 1.5 inches per hour.

- Set 4 – 6 shallow flat-bottom cans (like tuna or cat food cans) around the sprinkler or irrigation zone.
- Run sprinklers for 10 minutes.
- Using a ruler, measure amount of water collected in cans, add all the depths together, and divide by number of cans.
- For example, 0.2 inch + 0.1 inch + 0.2 inch + 0.1 inch + 0.1 inch = 0.7 inches of water, 5 cans = 0.14 inches of water in 10 minutes, or 0.84 inches per hour.

What Irrigation Problems Should You Look For?



Check your irrigation system often during the growing season, looking for these common problems:

- Sprinkler heads spraying water onto sidewalks, driveways, or the street
- Missing or broken sprinkler heads (“geysers”), or sprinkler heads that aren’t operating or putting out enough water
- Misting or “fogging” sprinkler heads
- Abnormally dry OR wet areas of the landscape

College Station Watering Schedule

The watering schedule below is voluntary unless the City of College Station has declared mandatory water cutbacks, and is provided as a suggested schedule to avoid over-watering.

| CUSTOMER CLASS | Commercial & Multi-family All Addresses | Residential Addresses ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 | Residential Addresses ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 |
|-----------------|---|---|---|
| DAY(S) TO WATER | Mon. and/or Fri. | Tues. and/or Sat. | Thurs. and/or Sun. |
| HOURS | <i>before 10:00 AM or after 6:00 PM</i> | | |

Who to Call for Questions about High Water Bills or Sprinkler Systems?

Contact Water Services for a FREE Landscape Irrigation Check-Up! We’ll show you how to identify problems with your irrigation system and provide a written report of suggested water conservation actions. Visit <http://www.cstx.gov/water> or call 979-764-3660.