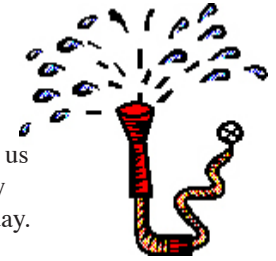




Watering Your Lawn



Lawn watering consumes nearly half of the water used by most homes during the warmest months. Many of us water too often and too long, yet most lawns need to be watered only once every three days to remain healthy and green. This guide will help you determine how long to operate your sprinklers if you water every third day.

- ✓ Use these watering times as a guide, since so much depends on soil conditions.
- ✓ Your lawn may need more water during hot spells or less when it's cool.
- ✓ Don't water in the middle of the day; best time is between 4:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- ✓ Don't water during rainy or windy conditions.
- ✓ Consider aerating your lawn every few years to keep soil porous.
- ✓ A bluegrey/bluegreen/bluesilver spot or a visible footprint means that the lawn is very dry and must be watered now.

Determine How Long To Water:

Set 3 to 5 flat-bottomed cans or coffee mugs (all the same size) at various intervals on your lawn halfway between the sprinklers or in areas that general receive the least water. Turn on your sprinklers for 15 minutes. Measure the depth of water in each can or mug; then determine the average water depth of all of the containers. Consult the guide below to determine how long to water your lawn every third day. (A typical every third day schedule means you might water: Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday, Tuesday, and Friday - over a two week period.) Remember, the ground is like a sponge. To make sure it can absorb all the water your lawn needs, divide your total watering time into two or three periods. For instance, if your lawn requires 18 minutes of water, don't water once, for 18 minutes, water three times at six minutes each.

Total Minutes of Watering Time Every Third Day (based on evaporation)

Average Depth of Cans/Mugs	1/3 of Depth to the nearest 1/16"	Spring (3/15-5/14)	Summer (5/15-9/14)	Fall (9/15-11/14)	Winter (11/15-3/14)
1"	5/16"	6 min.	9 min	6 min	(Water only during extended dry periods.)
3/4"	4/16"	8 min	12 min	8 min	
5/8"	3/16"	10 min	15 min	10 min	
1/2"	3/16"	12 min	18 min	12 min	
3/8"	2/16"	16 min	24 min	16 min	
1/4"	1/16"	24 min	36 min	24 min	
1/8"	1/16"	48 min	72 min	48 min	

*Note: if there is more than this depth, something may be wrong with the sprinkler system.

To achieve deep roots, increase watering times by 50% to 100% for at least 6 weeks. To maintain a healthy lawn once deep roots have been established (2nd or 3rd year): if it is in the 70 degree range-water once a week, if it is in the 80, degree range - water once in 5 days or three times in 2 weeks; if it is in the 90 degree range-water twice a week.

Summer Problem Solving To Try At Home:

Screw Driver Test

- Step 1:**
1. Push screw driver in green spot to compare for moisture content.
 2. Do the same in a the problem spot. If it is harder: The problem is poor water penetration from lack of water, or poor sprinkler coverage.
 3. If it is the same, go on to Step 2.

Insect Test

- Step 2:**
1. Pull on grass. If the grass comes up easily, look for grubs in root zone. Apply grub control and repeat every April and August - Or
 2. Flood edge of spot with a solution of a half gallon of water with a squirt of dish soap mixed into it. Wait 20 minutes. If insects float up, apply insect control. If not, go to step 3.

Summer Fungus Test (Note: weather also has to be in high 90's with very frequent watering)

- Step 3:**
1. Examine leaves. Or, cut out a section of lawn, 4"x 4" (including roots), that has a corner of the brown spot but is mostly green, to the Info Center to be examined by our nursery staff.