



Irrigation Tips

Grass, trees, and flowers need water to survive and look their best. Watering by hand can be time consuming, so setting up an irrigation system can be a great way to keep your lawn and garden looking lush and help you avoid wasting water (and unnecessarily driving up your utility bills).

Here are some watering and lawn care tips to use with your irrigation system:

Care and Watering Schedule

- Check with your local municipality for any restrictions, as some may limit usage at certain times of the day, as well as specific days of the week.
- Pay close attention to the different zones of your irrigation system. Adjust as needed (more or less water) depending on the time of year, shade conditions, ground absorption, and the slope of your grade. Heat waves, continued heavy rains, and other weather conditions should affect your irrigation schedule.
- Water your lawn in the morning, or directly at sunrise, as opposed to several times throughout the day. Grass roots tend to absorb water better during the early hours of the day.
- Begin watering your lawn for 30 minutes, three (3) times per day. After one to two weeks, reduce frequency from three times a day to once in the morning.
- Adjust your watering schedule using the panel inside your irrigation controller box, every one to two weeks after the yard is installed.
- Newly sodded lawns may root within four to eight weeks, but it takes three to five years before a lawn develops a mature root system.

Maintenance

- All lawns, sodded or seeded, can benefit from a fertilizing program.
- Hire a licensed irrigation professional to perform at least two maintenance sessions each year. One for “Winterization” and another for “Startup.”
- Winterization should be scheduled between mid-October and early November, typically before frost starts.

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- Startup irrigation maintenance should be scheduled in early to mid-April, after the danger of frost has passed, depending on your climate.
- Know where your irrigation shut-off valves are located.
- If installed, be aware of your irrigation's drip lines in your mulch bed before making changes to any landscaping at your home.
- If you notice your irrigation system is running after a large rain event, check to ensure your float on the rain sensor is not obstructed.

Notes on Water Usage

- During the summer, irrigation can be the main factor impacting your monthly water consumption, leading to an increase in your water bill.
- Water usage adds up—each irrigation head puts out about one to two gallons of water per minute, per zone, daily.
- Neglecting to make necessary adjustments can lead to even higher water bills, burnt and dried-out lawns, or you can drown or wash away new grass seedlings.
- Your swale (a shallow ditch) is designed to channel water from the other areas of the yard. You may be over-watering if your swale stays saturated or if you notice runoff in the street. If so, consider cutting back your run time in each zone.
- Too much water or overwatering does not equate to a healthier yard, and doing so may significantly impact your water bill.

For more information on your irrigation system, e.g., how to set your watering zones and timers, click on your irrigation brand below.

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