



Watering Instructions

The starting point of any water program is the **summer** because that's when the soil loses the most water. Imagine a bucket full of water left in the middle of your sunny lawn. If you check it a week later you'd see it lost about 1" of water. Your soil is the same. If you don't replace the 1" of water it loses, over time your yard will get more and more dry. The normal fan pattern spray nozzles (pictured to the right) take about an hour to put out an inch of water. The trouble with our area is that our infamous clay soil can't absorb an hour of water all at once. We recommend watering in 10 minute intervals (or bursts) and letting it soak in between. If you have two days per week to water, run your system with three start times (2am, 4am and 6am on each day.) That gives you a total of 60 minutes per week for each zone. If you only have once per week because of drought conditions? While watering in the morning is always best (because there is less wind,) if you only have one day per week to water you may not have another choice. You can water 2am, 4am and 6am, then add (in program B on my sprinkler controllers) water times of 6pm, 8pm and 10pm. Most plants, including your lawn, will be fine on the once per week watering schedule.



During **spring** and **fall** your soil loses about 1/2 the water it loses in the summer which means you can program to water on one day (or turn off the night time watering.)

For **winter** imagine that bucket again. If you were to check it at the end of the week with no rain, it would have lost only a small amount of that water (if you didn't have any rain.) The simplest thing to do is to set your sprinkler controller to only water once per week for 10 minutes.

Certain models of sprinkler controllers have a seasonal adjust, which are easy to use with our watering schedule. Set your controller for the 60 minutes in the **summer**. In **spring** and **fall**, set the seasonal adjust to 50% and it will apply that to all of your zones, making the run for 30 minutes. Then in the **winter** set it to 10% Heavy shade? You typically want to water about half the time you would in a sunny area. In extremely heavy shade you might even cut it down to a fourth or less.

Rotary heads pictured to the right turn slowly and send out long streams of water. They spray farther than the small spray heads and typically cover twice the area. Since they're covering twice the area with the same number of gallons, they need to run twice as long to put out an inch of water. In the **summer** you need to water about two hours per zone.

