



Watering Instructions - Fall 2015

We boil your watering schedule down to the four seasons. The starting point is summer because that's when the soil loses the most water. Picture a bucket filled with water and left in the middle of a sunny lawn. If you were to check it a week later you'd see it probably lost about 1" of water. If you don't replace that inch of water, gradually your soil, especially the top layer gets more and more dry.

The normal fan pattern spray nozzles like the one shown here take about an hour to put out an inch of water. The problem is our clay soil can't absorb an hour all at once (you'd have water running down your street and alley.) We recommend watering in 10 minute bursts and then letting it soak in between. During the summer water two days per week and 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. We recommend watering in the morning because it is cooler so you'll have less evaporation plus there is less wind which can blow your water onto your drive way, sidewalk, or street. Watering in the morning will mean more water ends up in your lawn which is both environmentally and financially smart.



During spring and fall your soil loses about ½ the water it loses in the summer so during spring and fall you can turn off one day. Even during the winter your soil loses a little, picture that bucket again. If you were to check it at the end of the week with no rain, it would have lost a little water, right? If there isn't any rain, you need to replace that little bit of water. The simplest thing to do is to set the controller to only water once per week for 10 minutes.

Some of the newer controllers have what is called a seasonal adjust section. Those are really easy to use with this system. 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 them run for 30 minutes, in the winter set it to 10%

Have shady areas? Typically you want to water about half of the time you would in a sunny area, in heavy shade you might even cut it down to a fourth or less.

For those with rotary head sprinklers (they slowly turn and send out long streams of water) these spray farther than the small spray heads and they 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 so in the summer you'll usually water about two hours.