

WATER EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

TIPS FOR IRRIGATION FOR MINNETRISTA LAWN



APRIL 2022

IRRIGATION CHECK – IS MY IRRIGATION SYSTEM PROGRAMED CORRECTLY?

Often times, irrigation systems are programmed at the time of installation of the new lawn and not audited after the lawn has been established. Typically, the settings on an automatic irrigation system are intended to promote best growth and establish strong roots.

If you set your automatic settings one time and let it run all season without adjusting it, it is likely you are wasting a lot of water and over watering.

Once your lawn is established, your irrigation system should be checked monthly to adjust their length of runtime to ensure that you are not wasting water throughout the summer season by over watering your lawn.

HOW LONG SHOULD MY IRRIGATION SYSTEM RUN IF MY LAWN IS ESTABLISHED?

Although there is no such thing as a universal watering rule for every lawn, your goal should be an inch of water per week. This includes total rainfall for the week. As a rule of thumb for best conservation practices, you should run each irrigation zone for **8-12 minutes, 2-3 times a week from May-September.**



Many factors may affect how much you should water your lawn such as:

- Type of soil
- Areas of runoff
- If the area in the shade or sun
- Weather conditions
- Type of sprinkler heads

Turf studies show that most lawns only require irrigation once every 4 to 8 days to stay healthy and green, given there are no local drought conditions. Consider all variables of your specific lawn and audit your irrigation system to ensure you aren't wasting limited resources!

OUTDOOR WATERING RESTRICTION PHASES

Summer watering restrictions are in effect from May 1 - September 30 every year. Staff will monitor the water tower levels and implement additional outdoor conservation measures if the water demand exceeds supply capabilities.

To sign up to be alerted for the change in restrictions, visit our website: www.cityofminnetrista.com/newsletters and sign up for Water Education and Conservation alerts .

OUTDOOR WATERING MEASURES

	PHASE 1 NORMAL Temperatures and rainfall are near average	PHASE 2 CAUTION Water tower levels at or near minimum required fire-fighting operations	PHASE 3 EMERGENCY OUTDOOR WATERING BAN Water tower levels below minimum required for fire-fighting operations and causing watermain system pressure to drop
 Lawn watering by automatic means	ODD/EVEN SCHEDULE Odd-numbered houses on odd-numbered days. Even-numbered houses on even-numbered days	A modified watering schedule, for example allowing properties to water two days per week.	Not Permitted
 Lawn watering by hand	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
 Other Watering Needs	Allowed	Only permitted on restricted days	Not Permitted

WHAT IS THE BEST TIME TO WATER MY LAWN?

The best time to water your lawn during the summer months is as close to sunrise as possible. Why is this?

- The heat of the day sun will cause your water to evaporate before it can soak into your soil.
- Wind typically picks up as the day goes on and you don't want your water to blow away.
- Your lawn will have time to absorb the moisture to promote root growth



WHAT ARE SOME EASY ACTIONS I CAN TAKE TO CONSERVE WATER?

- Don't Water Every Day: If you have an established lawn, do not water it every day. You want to let the soil dry out between waterings, which means water less frequently.
 - Why?
 - Watering less encourages the roots to grow longer and deeper which leads to healthier and better-established grass and deeper roots.
 - Shallow roots can't handle the stress of a sudden drought as well as deeper roots (this isn't true for new seed or sod)
- Set irrigation programs to water during the early morning or late-night hours
- Check your irrigation system: Make sure you change the settings of your irrigation system to reflect the needs of your lawn! Often times, this can lead to a great cost savings and a conservation of resources.
- Improve soil and lawn quality through good maintenance: High mowing heights (3 inches or greater) will improve lawn quality and reduce irrigation requirements.
- Change your expectation: consider changing your lawn expectation to allow for temporary discoloration during drought periods.

Keep in mind, the City of Minnetrista enforces the Summer Water Restrictions on an **odd/even schedule beginning in May**.

For additional water conservation tips and resources, please visit the City's webpage: www.cityofminnetrista.com/CityWaterInformation

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