

# WATER-WISE LAWN CARE TIPS

Your lawn can still be green and healthy when you water wisely. Follow the right watering schedule—and the tips below—to set yours up for success.

## MOW

- Use your mower's highest setting to promote healthy root growth.
- Mow frequently enough so you only remove one-third of the grass blade to prevent stress (1-2 times per week).
- Let clippings fall rather than bagging them to recycle nutrients.
- Sharpen your mower's blade twice per year for a clean cut.
- Mow when the grass blades are dry to prevent disease.

## FERTILIZE

- Fertilize mid-spring, early fall and late fall to sustain steady growth throughout the year.
- Use a fertilizer with nitrogen; both traditional and organic types work.
- Avoid weed-and-feed formulas. Pull or spot spray weeds to prevent damage to nearby trees and shrubs.

## CORE AERATE

- Core aerate once or twice per year in spring or fall to provide oxygen to the soil and encourage deeper roots.
- Water thoroughly 24-48 hours before aerating.
- Apply grass seed to thin areas after core aerating.
- Avoid power raking.

## WINTER WATER

- Prevent winter kill and mite damage by watering dry lawns once or twice a month November through April.
- Watering on warm days allows the water to be fully absorbed.
- Disconnect the hose afterward to prevent freeze damage.

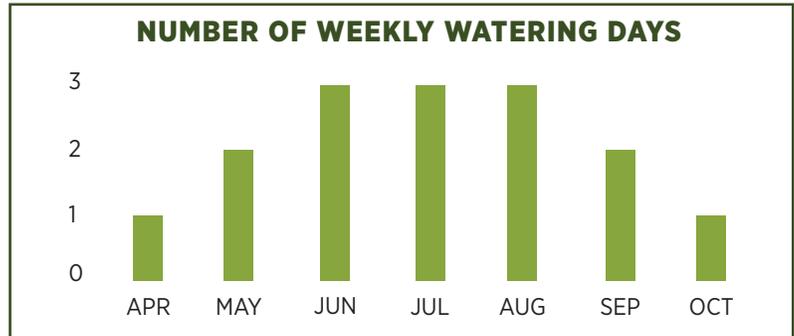


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# WATER-WISE LAWN WATERING SCHEDULE

## STEP 1

It is important to adjust your weekly watering days each month. Water once or twice a week in spring and fall and three days a week in summer.



## STEP 2

Different types of sprinklers apply water at different rates. Water the right amount of time for your sprinkler type. Water long enough to apply 1/2 inch of water.\* Use these recommendations as a starting point and adjust as needed.

\*If you have sandy soils, adjust to 1/3 inch each watering day. If you see stress in summer, water in the morning and evening on the third watering day to prevent the soil from drying out.

### FIXED SPRAY



20 MINUTES

### ROTORS



45 MINUTES

### MULTI-STREAM



60 MINUTES

## STEP 3

If water runs off your lawn before your sprinkler cycle ends, break the total run time into two or three segments. Wait an hour between each segment to allow the water to soak into the soil. This decreases water waste and promotes a more drought tolerant turf.

*Visit [csu.org](http://csu.org) for more water-wise information, including irrigation rebates and instructional videos.*

## FIVE TIPS FOR WISE LANDSCAPE WATER USE

- Check your sprinkler system monthly for leaks, misalignment and breaks. Make necessary repairs.
- Add a rain sensor to prevent your sprinklers from running during rain.
- Replace fixed spray nozzles with multi-stream nozzles for better coverage and less runoff.
- Swap old sprinkler heads with pressure-regulating heads to minimize misting.