

# Landscape Irrigation Tips



## The smartest irrigation controller is you!

**Hand watering is conservation**, as long as you focus on dry spots and pay attention to avoid runoff. To see if your lawn needs watering, step on the grass, if it springs back up when you lift your foot, it does not need water. Also, avoid watering during windy days, as wind increases evaporation. **Potential water savings: 750 – 1,500 gallons per month.**

**Don't over water.** Reduce irrigation cycles by 1 – 3 minutes. Irrigate on odd or even days, skipping Sundays. Most of us put twice as much water on our lawns as they actually need. **Potential water savings: 15 – 25 gallons per minute.**

**The best time to irrigate** your landscapes is in the early morning hours before sunrise. Watering in the evening may cause fungal growth and watering during the day is wasteful due to evaporation. If you hand water, water before breakfast. If you have an irrigation controller, consider setting it to run half-cycles twice in the morning (2 a.m. and 5 a.m.) to avoid unnecessary runoff. **Potential water savings: 20-25 gallons per day.**

**Adjust sprinkler times monthly.** Put it on your calendar. It is important to change settings at key times when seasons normally change, which is usually around October and May. **Potential water savings: up to 25 gallons per adjusted cycle.**

**Driveways, sidewalks and streets do not need water.** Be sure to adjust sprinklers to avoid unnecessary overspray. **Potential water savings: 500 gallons per month.**

**Fix leaky and broken sprinkler heads** as soon as possible to avoid waste and embarrassing geysers. **Potential water savings: 20 gallons per day per leak, 10 gallons per minute per broken head.**

**Replace spray head nozzles** with new rotator nozzles. **Potential water savings: 1,200 gallons per, year per nozzle.**

**Consider using non-spraying heads**, like drips or bubbles, to irrigate your flowers and shrubs. **Potential water savings: 20-25 gallons per day.**

**Put 2 – 4 inches of mulch** around bushes, trees, and shrubs to hold in moisture. **Potential water savings: 20-30 gallons per day per 1,000 square feet.**

**Set lawn mower blades one notch higher.** Taller grass shades the soil reducing evaporation.

**Aerate lawn** by punching small holes in it about 6 inches apart. This will allow water to penetrate to the roots and lessen runoff.

