

HOW TO USE THE WATERING SCHEDULE

Find the sprinkler or drip type that most closely resembles your system. Use the suggested watering schedules as a starting point and then adjust as needed. Every system and every landscape is unique and therefore may need more or less than what is suggested. Start with the recommended watering times and then adjust as necessary.

ASSUMPTIONS – This schedule assumes your yard is in Alameda or Contra Costa County and your lawn and landscape are in full sun.

WATERING DAYS – Deep infrequent watering makes plants healthier and better able to withstand drought. Lawns can thrive in peak summer with three to four days per week and established plants with two days per week. New plantings need more frequent watering.

REPEAT CYCLES – Clay soil cannot absorb water as fast as sprinklers and some drip apply it. So instead of setting your schedule to water one long cycle per night, set it to water three shorter cycles per night. This will allow the water to soak in and encourage deeper roots.

MICRO CLIMATE – Plants growing in shady areas (north/east side of your home) will generally require 50% less water than the same plants in full sun. Adjust your watering schedule to account for this.

WHEN TO WATER – The optimum time to water your lawn or landscape is during the night or early morning when the sun is down and the temperature is cooler.

CHECK IRRIGATION SYSTEM – A few times each year, inspect your sprinklers and drip while they are on. Look for sprinklers that are broken, bent or misaligned. Look for holes or breaks in the drip system. Inspecting and repairing will help keep your landscape healthy and save water.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO SAVE

MULCH – Add mulch to all planting areas to ensure there is a 2–3 inch layer. This will improve plant health, reduce water loss, improve soil quality, and keep soil temperatures cooler.

LAWN CARE – Remember to aerate lawns once per year. This will reduce soil compaction and improve lawn health. Also, mow lawns to 2.5 to 3 inches. This will improve the quality of the lawn and reduce water demand.

NEW PLANTS – After installing new plants in an existing garden, remember to hand water them to ensure they get ample water during their establishment period.

LAWN & LANDSCAPE WATERING SCHEDULE



