

Water Conservation Tips

You May Be Able to Use Fewer Minutes to Water if:

1. You have warm season grasses, Bermudagrass, etc..
2. You have excellent sprinkler uniformity.
3. The zone / station is shaded.

Your tolerance of brown areas can also allow for fewer minutes. Brown spots may be due to lack of water but can also be caused by disease and insects. Try reducing each station run-time in the summer by one or two minutes and observe the results. By monitoring your landscape, you may find that you can further reduce your run-time minutes for each station.

Check Water Distribution Uniformity:

Check the uniformity with the Easy Gauges, make changes and check again. You will be able to identify problem areas in your irrigation system, such as areas receiving too much or too little water. Poor or uneven coverage may indicate overgrowth, a plugged or damaged sprinkler head or water pressure that is too low or too high. You may need to add additional sprinkler heads for proper coverage. The general rule is 100% overlap (sprinkler head to sprinkler head coverage).

Maintenance:

Periodically (monthly) run a test on each station and check for overgrowth, plugged or damaged sprinkler heads.

What About Rain?

During the winter, in some areas, rainfall will equal or exceed ET. A rainfall sensor can automatically shut the controller off or the controller can be manually shut off. Warm season grasses, i.e. Bermudagrass, etc., may go dormant in the winter and require very little water.

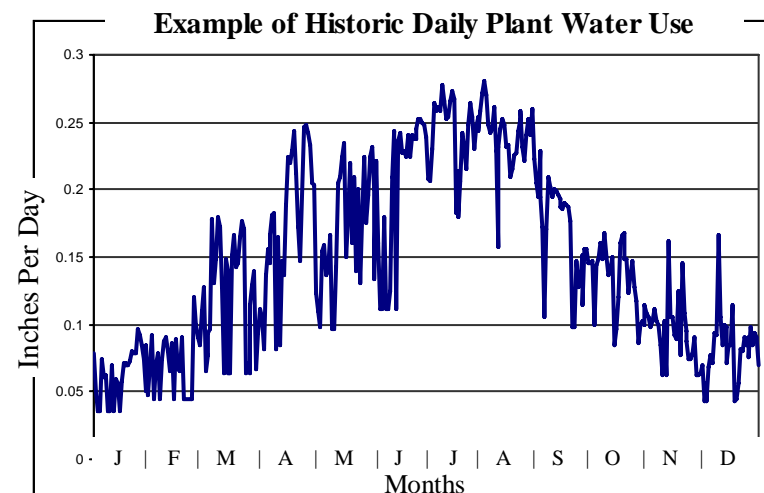
Note: Some controllers allow for one or more days of rain delay.

EXAMPLE ONLY

EASY GAUGE INSTRUCTIONS for Established Landscapes

The Easy Gauges lets you know how many minutes to water each station. Too little or too much water may damage your plants, waste precious resources and cost extra money. The gauges can also be used for checking distribution uniformity.

The gauge uses the scientific principle of Evapotranspiration (ET) to estimate the ideal irrigation settings. **ET is: *The amount of water that Evaporates from the soil plus the amount that Transpires through the plants' leaves.*** ET is based on data from over 200 weather stations in the U.S. and 50 years of research and field applications relating plant water use to temperature, humidity, sunshine and wind.





EXAMPLE ONLY

Using the Easy Gauges for Established Landscapes only

- Place a number of gauges in different areas within the irrigation zone or station to be tested.
- Run the station for 10 minutes.
- Record the collected water in each cup.
- Total the measurements.
Example: $0.30 + 0.36 + 0.26 = 0.92$
- Multiply the total water collected by 6 and divide by the number of gauges used to determine your precipitation rate*.
Example: $(0.92 * 6) / 3 \text{ gauges} = 1.84 \text{ inches per hour}$
- Multiply 104 x the ET value assigned to your region (0.23 for CA Inland to Desert)***.
 $104 * 0.23 = 23.92$
- Divide this number by the precipitation rate.*
 $23.92 / 1.84 = 13.00 \text{ minutes}$
- Refer to the months in each row to determine how many days each week you should irrigate.**
- The run-time minutes may need to be split into two or three irrigation cycles to allow soak time and prevent run-off. Rather than watering for 13 minutes at one time, water for 7 minutes, two times a day.
- If you prefer to water more often each week, reduce the watering times accordingly. For Example: 13 minutes for 4 times a week is about the same as 11 minutes 5 times a week.

*How much water is applied in one hour.

**For an Aqua Conserve ET Controller you only need to program the July run-times and the controller will automatically vary run-times for the remainder of the year.

Gauge Number	
1	0.30
2	0.36
3	0.26
Sum Inches	0.92
Precipitation Rate	1.84
WATERING SCHEDULE	MONTHS
None/ As Needed	JAN
None/ As Needed	FEB
2x/Week As needed	MAR
2x/Week As needed	APR
3x/Week	MAY
4x/Week	JUN
4x/Week	JUL
4x/Week	AUG
3x/week	SEP
2x/Week As needed	OCT
None As Needed	NOV
None As Needed	DEC

***REGIONS

ET
VALUE

Reg. 1: So. CA Inland to Desert	0.23
Reg. 2: CA Low Desert	0.34
Reg. 3: CA Central Valley	0.28
Reg. 4: N. CA Inland to Central Valley	0.23
Reg. 5: CA High Desert	0.34
Reg. 6: CA Coastal	0.18
Reg. 11: Phoenix, AZ	0.34
Reg. 16: Reno, NV	0.28
Reg. 17: Las Vegas, NV	0.34
Reg. 21: Denver, CO	0.23
Reg. 22: Northern CO	0.22
Reg. 26: Albuquerque, NM	0.30
Reg. 27: Southern NM	0.33
Reg. 31: Seattle, WA	0.14
Reg. 41: Logan, Utah	0.26
Reg. 51: Southern TX	0.22
Reg. 52: Northern TX	0.23