



# Waterfacts 9

## Scheduling irrigation systems.

Scheduling is the process of applying the correct amount of water at the right time. The largest loss of plant materials and the over use of water is the direct result of improper irrigation scheduling. The biggest problem is watering too frequently. Proper irrigation scheduling is the key to efficient water use.

Here are some general tips to help in scheduling your irrigation system:

1. Know how to adjust your irrigation controller and change watering times and frequency. Irrigation controllers should be adjusted on a weekly basis. Minimum adjustments should be done monthly to accommodate changing weather and plant conditions.
2. Water your lawn only when it needs it. Remember rainfall counts toward the 2.5 cm (1") per week normally needed for healthy turf.
3. Understand the needs of your plantings. Drought tolerant and many native plants require much less water than annuals and most perennials, shrubs and trees.
4. Do the can test (see CRD's How Much Water Fact Sheet 4) to determine lawn watering flow rates and timing.
5. CRD Water Services allows for lawn watering two days per week based on property address between the hours of 4:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
6. Visually inspect your lawn for signs of stress. These signs include a bluish/gray colour and turf that does not spring back when walked on.
7. Different soil types absorb water at different rates. Knowing your soil type and its rate of absorption is very important in reducing run-off. Mulch aids in the absorption and retention of water for any soil type.
8. To determine the run time of drip irrigation systems, the depth of wetting must be identified and adjusted based on the rooting depth of the plants being irrigated. Dig with a trowel or shovel to determine the depth of wetting.
9. Use a rain shut-off device to eliminate watering during periods of rainfall. (For more information about rain shut-off devices see the CRD Rain/Moisture Shut-off Devices fact sheet)



**Do your part.**   
**Every drop counts!**

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For more information about irrigation systems, see the CRD fact sheet on irrigation system maintenance.

10. Consider installing a soil moisture sensor. Soil moisture sensors increase the water efficiency of irrigation systems by allowing them to operate only when irrigation is actually needed. (For more information about soil moisture devices see the CRD Rain/Moisture Shut-off Devices fact sheet)



11. The steeper the slope, the greater the runoff and less absorption of water. Apply water in several short periods, rather than one longer period.
12. Drought tolerant plants will need watering during their first season of growth after planting, less frequently in the second year, even less often in the third, and very possibly none in later years.

### CRD Water Services

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The content of this fact sheet was reviewed for accuracy by an irrigation professional and a landscape designer.

 50% post-consumer waste

