



Waterfacts 4

How much water?

In the Victoria area we live in a northern Mediterranean climate, not a rainforest therefore, just 25 mm (one inch) of water a week, including rainfall is all your lawn needs.

Use the following steps for the “can test” or call CRD Water Services for a Free rain gauge (if you have a water bill account number in the Victoria metropolitan area) to determine how long to run your sprinklers. You can use these steps whether you use an in-ground system or a hose and sprinkler.

1. Save or collect 5 to 10 fruit or coffee cans approximately 7 to 15 cm (3” to 6”) in diameter.
2. a.) To determine water amounts for an in-ground system, place the cans in a scatter pattern within one of your zones. Let the water run for 15 minutes. Repeat the procedure for each individual zone as there may be differences in watering rates between zones.
b.) To determine water amounts for a hose-end sprinkler, space the containers evenly in a straight line starting at the sprinkler and moving to the end of the watering arc of the sprinkler. Let the water run for 15 minutes.
3. After the 15 minute run time, (for either procedure) use a ruler to measure the depth of water in each container. Be as accurate as possible.
4. Determine the average depth of water in all of the containers.
5. To calculate the watering rate in centimeters (cm) or inches per hour, multiply the average depth of water times four. This calculation tells you the irrigation rate for your system.
6. Use the Table on the back as a guide for sprinkler times.



Do your part. 
Every drop counts!

CRD Water Services
474-9684 | www.crd.bc.ca/water



Waterfacts 4 - How much water?



In the Victoria area we live in a climate similar to the northern Mediterranean, not a rainforest. This means we have wet winters and very dry summers. All of our municipal water comes from a reservoir that relies on winter rains to fill it. The rain we capture in the winter months, must meet our water needs for the summer months, when water use almost doubles due to lawn and garden watering. This supply must last until the rain starts again in the Fall. The probability of the reservoir filling to capacity is only 6 winters out of 10. Unfortunately almost 65 percent of this outdoor irrigation is wasted by inefficient watering practices - primarily over watering.

These inefficient practices not only waste water but leave your lawn open to damaging conditions such as weed growth, fungus and disease. Your lawn only needs 25 mm (1 inch) of water per week, including rainfall to keep it healthy.

If average depth in cans after 15 Minutes is

	3mm	6mm	12mm	20mm	25mm
	1/8"	1/4"	1/2"	3/4"	1"
Then water					
once a week	120 min.	60 min.	30 min.	20 min.	15min.
twice a week	60 min.	30 min.	15 min.	10 min.	8 min.

CRD Water Services

479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC V9B 1H7
 Telephone 250-474-9684, Fax 250-474-4012
www.crd.bc.ca/water

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



Remember lawns need more than just water to stay healthy. Call or write for a free copy of our Lawn Maintenance fact sheet. (For residents who have a water bill account number in the Victoria metropolitan area, call CRD Water Services to receive a FREE rain gauge).

The CRD Stage 1 Outdoor Water Use Bylaw allows lawn watering a maximum of two days per week during specific hours based on property address. Call or write Water Services for a copy of the CRD Water scheduling fact sheet, or refrigerator magnet.