Lawn Watering Schedule

Biweekly Period	Approximate Lawn Water Needs (Inches per Week)[1]	% Adjust[2]	Total Watering Time Per Week		
			Standard Sprays[3]	Rotor Sprinklers[3]	Multi-Stream Rotators[3]
May 1-15	1.04	60%	42 minutes	100 minutes	156 minutes
May 16-31	1.21	70%	48 minutes	116 minutes	181 minutes
June 1-15	1.40	80%	56 minutes	134 minutes	210 minutes
June 16-30	1.59	90%	64 minutes	153 minutes	238 minutes
July 1-15	1.76	100%	70 minutes	169 minutes	264 minutes
July 16-31	1.71	100%	68 minutes	164 minutes	256 minutes
Aug 1-15	1.50	90%	60 minutes	144 minutes	225 minutes
Aug 16-31	1.33	80%	53 minutes	128 minutes	199 minutes
Sep 1-15	1.09	60%	44 minutes	105 minutes	163 minutes
Sep 16-30	0.84	50%	34 minutes	80 minutes	126 minutes

(1) Use this schedule as a reference, adjusting as needed to reflect actual weather, site conditions and specific sprinklers used. When water needs are met by rain, reduce watering accordingly.

(2) Use Seasonal Percentage Adjust feature on sprinkler controller. Percentages based on July values. Certain controllers can adjust in 5% increments, giving you more precise run times. We recommend adjusting to the closest percentage available on your controller.

(3) These run times are based on irrigation industry average results for sprinklers. They assume an application rate of **1.5** inches per hour for standard spray heads, **0.625** inch per hour for rotor sprinklers, and **0.4** inch per hour for multi-stream rotators.

Example water requirement calculation:

Weekly irrigation = 1.70 in. (ET) / 1.5 in/hr (application rate of sprays) x 60 = 68 minutes per week

Shrub and Tree Watering: The sample schedules above apply to lawns. Most shrubs and trees prefer deeper, less frequent watering. If you use spray heads to water shrubs and trees, try cutting the above weekly run times by 1/2 to 2/3. If your timer has ***multiple program*** capability, try placing your lawns on program 'A', and your shrub/tree zones on program 'B'. This will allow you to water your lawns every two or three days, while watering shrubs and trees just once or twice per week. To conserve even more water, consider switching your trees and shrubs to drip irrigation. If trees are located in lawn areas, occasionally spot water them deeply.

The watering times above apply only to lawns. Most shrubs and trees prefer deeper, less frequent watering. The following is a recommendation for determining other vegetation water needs:

- **Vegetables:** 75-100% of lawn (ET)
- **Shrubs & Perennials:** 50-60% of lawn (ET)
- **Waterwise plants:** 30-40% of lawn (ET)
- **Trees:** Newly planted trees need regular water for the first couple of years, while established trees may need only a deep soak once or twice in summer.

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Water-Wise Shrub Drip Watering Schedule

Biweekly Period	Water-Wise Shrubs 40% Lawn ET	Total Per Week Micro-sprays, Bubblers	Total Per Week for Low Volume Drip
May 1-15	0.38	45 Minutes	76 Minutes
May 16-31	0.48	58 Minutes	96 Minutes
June 1-15	0.56	68 Minutes	112 Minutes
June 16-30	0.64	78 Minutes	128 Minutes
July 1-15	0.68	82 Minutes	140 Minutes
July 16-31	0.68	82 Minutes	140 Minutes
Aug 1-15	0.60	72 Minutes	120 Minutes
Aug 16-31	0.53	64 Minutes	106 Minutes
Sep 1-15	0.43	52 Minutes	86 Minutes
Sep 16-30	0.34	40 Minutes	68 Minutes

When to Water: Running sprinklers between sunset and sunrise is best, as temperatures are at their lowest and the air is calm. Water pressure also tends to be most reliable prior to daylight, when other water demands are low. Daytime watering results in high water losses from evaporation. Daytime temperatures often peak around 4 p.m. and breezes are common, so wait until ***at least*** 9 p.m. if you prefer evening watering.

How to Water: If your timer has ***multiple start time*** capability, utilizing it will allow you to split a day's watering into two or more cycles. This can be particularly beneficial in our region where clay soils tend to absorb water very slowly. "Cycle and soak" irrigation allows water from each cycle to absorb into the soil before more water is applied. For example, the above chart suggests watering during the first part of June for 56 total minutes per week when using standard spray heads. Splitting this time among four watering days would mean 14 minutes of run time each watering day. Rather than applying this water all at once, try splitting each day's watering into three cycles of 5 minutes each. To do this, set the timer for three start times per watering day **spaced about an hour apart**.

For more information on weekly watering schedules call our Lawn Watering Infoline at **541-774-2460.**

Need ideas for your landscape? Visit the Water-Wise Landscaping Website:**www.medfordsaveswater.org**

Conservation Staff: **541-774-2436**

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