

5 Easy Steps to Setting Your Irrigation Controller

1 Measure how much water per hour your sprinklers put out: place some tuna cans or other straight-sided containers around your lawn or throughout your planting beds, and run the sprinklers for 15 minutes. Average the depth of water in the cans and multiply by 4. This is your sprinkler output in inches per hour.



2 Look at the tables on the next pages. Find your region and the current month for your type of grass. It will show the total recommended minutes for watering each week for your sprinkler system's output in inches per hour. If the time is more than 15 minutes, divide it into 2, 3, or 4 waterings separated by a day or two.

3 Set the timer to turn on the sprinklers early in the morning and to run for the time needed. For example, if the chart indicates that you need to water for 45 minutes per week this month, set the timer to come on at 6:00 am for 15 minutes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. During the winter months, you can usually turn the system off, since the rainwater received by your lawn will be sufficient.

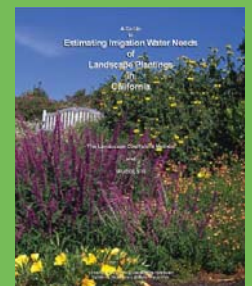


4 Look at your walkways during the first watering. If there is runoff from the lawn or beds that is not from overspray onto concrete, note how long the sprinklers run before the runoff occurs. This is the maximum time your system should run at one setting. If Step 2 determined that 15 minutes were needed each day, and runoff occurs at 8 minutes, then set your timer to come on for 7-8 minutes 2 times, or 5 minutes 3 times, with at least one hour between each watering.



5 To set the controller for your planting beds, determine which is the predominant plant in each area. Set the timer for those areas using the charts on back. If your main plant is not found on the back, use the free publication shown at the right:

<http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/wucols00.pdf>



Water Usage of Common Landscape Plants

Find your predominant plant below, and its water use classification. Consult the tables on the next two pages for your timer settings. If your plant is not listed below: Consult this online publication:

<http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/wucols00.pdf>. 1) Look on p.57 to find your region.

2) Look on p. 101 to find the official name of the plant if you only know the common name.

3) Look on pages 61-99 to find your plant's listing as Low, Medium, or High water use for your region.

PLANT NAME		WATER USE BY AREA		
COMMON	SCIENTIFIC	COASTAL	INLAND	DESERT:L-H
Abelia	<i>Abelia xgrandiflora</i>	M	M	N/A
African daisy	<i>Osteospermum fruticosum</i>	L	L	M-N/A
Azalea	<i>Rhododendron</i> (various species and hybrids)	M	H	N/A
Barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	L	L	M-L
Begonia	<i>Begonia semperflorens</i>	M	M	M-N/A
Boxwood	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> and hybrids	M	M	M
California lilac	<i>Ceanothus</i> (various species)	L	L	N/A-L
Camellia	<i>Camellia</i> (various species)	M	H-M	H-N/A
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster</i> (various species)	L-M	M	M
Coyote brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	L	L	N/A
Crape Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	M	M	M
Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis</i> hybrids	M	M	M
Escallonia	<i>Escallonia</i> hybrids	M	M	M-N/A
Euonymus	<i>Euonymus</i> (various species and hybrids)	M	M	M
Euryops	<i>Euryops pectinatus</i>	L-M	L-M	M
False heather	<i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i>	M	M	N/A
Fountain Grass	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> ('Rubrum')	M	L	L
Fortnight lily, African iris	<i>Dietes</i> (various species and hybrids)	M	M	M-N/A
Gazania	<i>Gazania</i> hybrids	M	M	M
Heavenly bamboo	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	L	M	M
Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea</i> (various species and hybrids)	M	M	H
Indian hawthorn	<i>Raphiolepis indica</i>	M	M	M
Juniper	<i>Juniperus</i> (various species and hybrids)	L	L-M	L-M
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i> , <i>L. montevidensis</i> , hybrids	L	L	M-N/A
Lily-of-the-Nile	<i>Agapanthus praecox orientalis</i>	M	M	M-N/A
Mock Orange	<i>Pittosporum</i> (various species)	M	M	M
Myoporum	<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>	L	L	M-N/A
New Zealand flax	<i>Phormium tenax</i>	L	M	M-N/A
Photinia	<i>Photinia fraseri</i>	M	M	M
Privet	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	M	M	M
Rose	<i>Rosa</i> hybrids	M	M	H (some M)
Star Jasmine	<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	M	M	M
Verbena	<i>Verbena</i> hybrids	L-M	L-M	M-N/A
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum</i> (various species and hybrids)	M	M	M-N/A
Vinca	<i>Vinca minor</i> (<i>V. major</i> is considered invasive)	M	M	M

Watering Guide for Central California

FOR YOUR LAWN: Find the table below for your region, cut it out, highlight the column for your sprinkler output, and hang it by your irrigation controller. If your lawn looks best in summer, use the warm season grass chart; if it looks best in late fall and early spring, use the cool-season grass chart. **FOR BEDS:** If your main plant is a HIGH water user, use the time for a cool-season grass; if MEDIUM, use the time for a warm season grass; if LOW, use ½ the time for a warm-season grass.

Region 5: San Joaquin Valley

Warm Season Grass					Cool Season Grass				
Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:					Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:				
½ in	1 in	1 ½ in	2 in		½ in	1 in	1 ½ in	2 in	
JAN	19	9	6	5	JAN	25	13	8	6
FEB	38	19	13	9	FEB	50	25	17	13
MAR	69	35	23	17	MAR	92	46	31	23
APR	101	50	34	25	APR	134	67	45	34
MAY	132	66	44	33	MAY	176	88	59	44
JUN	164	82	55	41	JUN	218	109	73	55
JUL	170	85	57	43	JUL	227	113	76	57
AUG	145	72	48	36	AUG	193	97	64	48
SEP	113	57	38	28	SEP	151	76	50	38
OCT	69	35	23	17	OCT	92	46	31	23
NOV	32	16	11	8	NOV	42	21	14	11
DEC	13	6	4	3	DEC	17	8	6	4

Region 6: Central Inland Valleys (between coast and San Joaquin)

Warm Season Grass					Cool Season Grass				
Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:					Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:				
½ in	1 in	1 ½ in	2 in		½ in	1 in	1 ½ in	2 in	
JAN	32	16	11	8	JAN	42	21	14	11
FEB	44	22	15	11	FEB	59	29	20	15
MAR	69	35	23	17	MAR	92	46	31	23
APR	95	47	32	24	APR	126	63	42	32
MAY	113	57	38	28	MAY	151	76	50	38
JUN	113	57	38	28	JUN	151	76	50	38
JUL	132	66	44	33	JUL	176	88	59	44
AUG	126	63	42	32	AUG	168	84	56	42
SEP	107	54	36	27	SEP	143	71	48	36
OCT	76	38	25	19	OCT	102	50	34	25
NOV	44	22	15	11	NOV	59	29	20	15
DEC	32	16	11	8	DEC	42	21	14	11

Region 7: Sierra

Warm Season Grass					Cool Season Grass				
Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:					Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:				
½ in	1 in	1 ½ in	2 in		½ in	1 in	1 ½ in	2 in	
JAN	Warm-season turfgrasses are not recommended in this region	JAN	31	15	10	8			
FEB		FEB	43	22	14	11			
MAR		MAR	79	39	26	20			
APR		APR	124	62	41	31			
MAY		MAY	164	82	55	41			
JUN		JUN	207	103	69	52			
JUL		JUL	231	115	77	58			
AUG		AUG	198	99	66	50			
SEP		SEP	141	70	47	35			
OCT		OCT	96	48	32	24			
NOV		NOV	40	20	13	10			
DEC		DEC	20	10	7	5			

Region 8: Central California Coast

Warm Season Grass					Cool Season Grass				
Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:					Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:				
½ in	1 in	1 ½ in	2 in		½ in	1 in	1 ½ in	2 in	
JAN	38	19	13	9	JAN	50	25	17	13
FEB	50	25	17	13	FEB	67	34	22	17
MAR	63	32	21	16	MAR	84	42	28	21
APR	88	44	29	22	APR	118	59	39	29
MAY	101	50	34	25	MAY	134	67	45	34
JUN	113	57	38	28	JUN	151	76	50	38
JUL	95	47	32	24	JUL	126	63	42	32
AUG	113	57	38	28	AUG	151	76	50	38
SEP	95	47	32	24	SEP	126	63	42	32
OCT	69	35	23	17	OCT	92	46	31	23
NOV	50	25	17	13	NOV	67	34	22	17
DEC	38	19	13	9	DEC	50	25	17	13

For more detailed information, visit the
UC Guide to Healthy Lawns web site at:
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/TOOLS/TURF>
or view these free publications:

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8044.pdf>

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/7227.pdf>

Authors:

Lorence (Loren) R. Oki, Ph.D.
CE Specialist, Landscape Horticulture
UC Cooperative Extension
UC Davis, Dept. of Plant Sciences
(530) 754-4135
lroki@ucdavis.edu

Darren L. Haver, Ph.D.
CE Water Resources/Quality Advisor
Director, South Coast Research & Extension Center
UC Cooperative Extension Orange County
(714) 708-1613
dlhaver@ucdavis.edu

Karrie Reid, M.S.
CE Environmental Horticulture Advisor
UC Cooperative Extension
(209) 953-6109
skreid@ucdavis.edu

Tammy Majcherek
Program Representative
UC Davis, Dept. of Plant Sciences
South Coast Research & Extension Center
(949) 733-3970
tjmajcherek@ucdavis.edu

