CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
WATER SERVICES

LAWN WATERING Q & A

WATER IQ
Know your water.
http://www.wateriq.org

How Can I Water My Lawn Without Runoff?

How long to water depends on amount of water needed, soil type, and your sprinkler's ***application rate***. This is usually given in terms of inches per hour (in./hr.). The best way to water in College Station's heavy clay soils, which can't absorb very much water, is to use the ***Cycle & Soak*** method.

"Cycle and Soak" refers to the practice of dividing a total run time into two more run times. For example, if 30 minutes on a rotor zone is needed to provide enough water for turf, but water runs off the turf within 10 minutes, you divide the run time into three start times. How it works:

Suppose your controller's current schedule looks like this:

Zone #	Sprinkler	Plant Type	Run Time	Watering Days	Area being Irrigated
1	Spray	Shrubs	10	Mon/Wed/Fri	Front shrubs – partial sun
2	Rotor	Turf	30	Mon/Wed/Fri	Front yard turf – sun
3	Spray	Shrubs	15	Mon/Wed/Fri	Backyard shrubs
4	Stream	Turf	40	Mon/Wed/Fri	Large turf area - backyard

Under ***Cycle & Soak***, the schedule looks like this:

Zone #	Sprinkler	Plant Type	Run Time	Watering Days	Area being Irrigated
1	Spray	Shrubs	5 min x 3 cycles	Thu / Sun	Front shrubs – partial sun
2	Rotor	Turf	10 min x 3 cycles	Thu / Sun	Front yard turf – sun
3	Spray	Shrubs	5 min x 3 cycles	Thu / Sun	Backyard shrubs
4	Stream	Turf	12 min x 3 cycles	Thu / Sun	Large turf area - backyard

Assumed precipitation rates for above calculations:

Spray	**Rotor**	**Multi-Stream**
1.25 - 1.5 in/hr	0.75 - 0.83 in/hr	0.3 - 0.5 in/hr

Know How Much Water Your Lawn Needs – Be Brazos Valley Water Smart!

Go to http://bvwatersmart.tamu.edu/ for weekly watering recommendations based on weather conditions in your neighborhood. Suggested run times for different sprinkler types are provided to help you easily put a recommended amount of water on your landscape, in 2 or fewer days per week.

Who Can I Call for Questions about High Water Bills or Sprinkler Systems?

Contact Water Services for a FREE Landscape Irrigation Check-Up! We'll show you how to identify problems with your irrigation system and provide a written report of suggested water conservation actions. Visit http://www.cstx.gov/water or call 979-764-3660.

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