

GUIDE: PROPER IRRIGATION SCHEDULING AND EFFECTIVE WATERING PRACTICES

J&J LAWN MAINTENANCE



Irrigation Scheduling

Maintaining the health and beauty of your lawn and landscape requires proper irrigation scheduling. Over or under watering can have detrimental effects, leading to the decline of turf and plants. Understanding the water needs of your landscape ensures its longevity and preserves your investment.

Step 1: Determine Gallons Per Minute (GPM) for Each Zone

Identify the number and type of heads in each zone. Typically, rotors output 1.5-3 GPM, while sprays range from 0.5-1.5 GPM. Calculate the total GPM for each zone to understand the water output.

Step 2: Measure Coverage Area for Each Zone

Determine the total coverage area for individual zones to accurately assess water requirements.

Step 3: Calculate Precipitation Rate (PR) for Each Zone

Use the formula: $PR \text{ (in/hr)} = 96.3 \times GPM / \text{Area (ft}^2\text{)}$ to find the Precipitation Rate for each zone. This metric helps gauge how much water is applied per hour.

Step 4: Determine Duration of Watering

Aim for about one inch of water per week, per zone. Divide the Precipitation Rate by the desired weekly water amount to determine how many minutes to run each zone per week. Water deeply and infrequently, preferably in the early morning hours.

Step 5: Monitor and Adjust

Regularly assess the effectiveness of your irrigation schedule. Make slight adjustments as needed based on the performance and health of your lawn and landscape.

By following these steps, you can establish an efficient irrigation schedule that promotes healthy growth and sustains the beauty of your lawn and landscape. J&J Lawn Maintenance is

committed to providing expert guidance and services to help you achieve and maintain a thriving outdoor environment.

Effective Watering Practices

Determining Weekly Watering Needs:

For optimal lawn health, aim to provide approximately 1.0" to 1.5" of water per week, factoring in rainfall. However, individual circumstances may vary, so consider additional factors before finalizing your watering schedule. If you have an irrigation system, program it to deliver the appropriate amount of water through 1-3 deep soakings per week, adjusting based on seasonal requirements. For manual watering, aim for a minimum of 2 deep soakings per week.

Deep Soaking vs. Light Watering:

During spring and early fall, target 1 inch of water per week, while increasing to 1.5 inches during hotter months. Deep, infrequent watering is preferred over light, frequent watering. Daily watering can lead to surface-level saturation, drowning turf grass. Opt instead for deeper, less frequent watering sessions to encourage healthy root development.

Optimal Watering Times:

Morning watering, preferably at or before dawn, is ideal. This allows sufficient time for water to penetrate the soil without prolonged exposure to sun, reducing evaporation. Avoid watering at night, as it can create a conducive environment for disease development by allowing water to sit on the grass for an extended period.

Measuring Water Application:

For those with sprinkler systems, ensure your program includes detailed information about each zone, including gallons per minute applied, watering days, start and end times, and seasonal adjustments. If you lack a sprinkler system, consider using a recommended tool to measure water application per session, aiming to meet the 1.0" to 1.5" weekly requirement.

By adhering to these guidelines, you can establish an effective watering regimen that promotes lush, healthy lawns and landscapes. J&J Lawn Maintenance is dedicated to providing expert advice and services to help you achieve and maintain vibrant outdoor spaces.