

Landscape professionals use a variety of techniques to maximize landscape quality and water use efficiency. Below are several watering techniques that professional irrigators use to maximize every drop.



Repeat Cycles

Clay soil cannot absorb water as fast as sprinklers apply it. So instead of watering for one long cycle, use 2 or 3 shorter cycles with an hour in between. This will allow the water to soak in much better & encourage deeper roots.

Check Sprinklers

Once a month inspect the sprinklers while they are working. Check for broken, bent or misaligned heads. Also trim back grass or other plants that are blocking the sprinkler.



When to Water

The optimum time to water your landscape is between 3:00 am and 8:00 am. This is because the sun is down, the temperature is cooler, and the wind is generally calm. Watering during the day can result in as much as 30% of the water being lost to evaporation.



Micro-Climates

Plants growing in shade (north/east side of your house) will generally require up to 50% less water than the same plants in full sun (south/west side of your home). Adjust your watering schedule to account for the different micro-climates in your yard.

Water like the Pros! The most efficient way to water lawns and landscapes is to water deeply and infrequently while adjusting the schedule every month to reflect seasonal changes. The following is the recommended watering schedule for lawns and landscapes in Contra Costa County.

Month	LAWNS			TREES, SHRUBS, GROUNDCOVERS		
	Pop-up sprinklers: Run 3 cycles of 3 to 6 minutes	Impact/Rotor sprinklers: Run 3 cycles of 7 to 10 minutes	Multi-stream/ MP rotator: Run 3 cycles of 15 to 20 minutes	Pop-ups/ fixed spray sprinklers: Run 3 cycles of 3 to 6 minutes	Impact/Rotor sprinklers: Run 3 cycles of 9 to 12 minutes	Multi-stream/ MP rotators: Run 3 cycles of 20 to 24 minutes
Jan and Feb	Off			Off		
Mar	1 day per week			Off		
Apr	1-2 days per week			1 day per week		
May	2-3 days per week			1-2 days per week		
Jun	3-4 days per week			2 days per week		
Jul	3-4 days per week			2-3 days per week		
Aug	3-4 days per week			2 days per week		
Sep	3 days per week			1-2 days per week		
Oct	2 days per week			1 day per week		
Nov	1 day per week			Off		
Dec	Off			Off		

Use the above schedule as a guide. Monitor your landscape and adjust the schedule for rain or other conditions.