LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION IN OREGON ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY HALF OF SUMMER RESIDENTIAL WATER USE.

One Inch Per Week

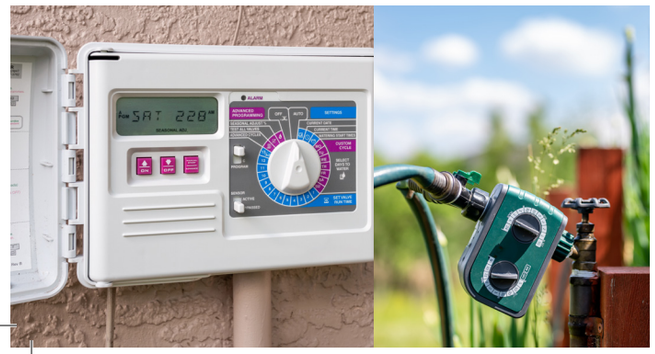
Watering your lawn strategically

Your lawn only needs about 1 inch of water per week to stay healthy and green. Water deeply and less often instead of watering lightly every day. Deep watering helps roots grow stronger, making your lawn more resilient to heat and drought.

Set, Adjust, Grow

Optimize your watering routine

Simplify your watering routine by setting a timer for your irrigation system. With the right schedule, you can ensure your lawn and garden receive the optimal amount of water without the hassle of daily monitoring. Program your timer to water early in the morning or late in the evening to minimize evaporation and promote healthy growth. By automating your watering, you not only save time but also conserve water, making it a win-win for your garden and the environment.



Additional Resources

For valuable information regarding irrigation tips and products to help save water, explore the following resources:

WaterSense Irrigation Controllers:
www.epa.gov/watersense

EPA Landscaping Tips and more:
www.epa.gov/watersense/landscaping-tips

OSU Extension Services
Efficient Lawn Irrigation:
www.marionswcd.net

Drip Irrigation:
extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/extd8/files/documents/em8782.pdf

Questions?

We are here to help.

Water Quality

For more information on water conservation and our drinking water visit our website at:
www.cityofsalem.net/water

Utility Customer Care

For bill payment, account setup, or water use inquiries.

503-588-6099
utilitybilling@cityofsalem.net
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday

Public Works Dispatch

For general and emergency concerns regarding city infrastructure.

503-588-6311
pwdispatch@cityofsalem.net
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

CITY OF Salem AT YOUR SERVICE

Sprinkler Spruce Up

Keep Your Sprinklers in Top Shape for a Sustainable Summer!

Sprinkler Spuce Up Checklist

Before summer arrives, it's a good idea to check your sprinkler system for any damages or leaks. Winter's cold, ice, and snow can shift or damage components, leading to wasted water and higher bills. A quick tune-up now can save thousands of gallons of water and hundreds of dollars over the six-month irrigation season. Here are a few key things to look for to keep your sprinkler system running smoothly and efficiently.

MISTING: A fine mist coming from sprinklers is a sign of high pressure. Misting wastes water as it's easily blown away by wind. Install a pressure regulator or adjust the system's pressure settings to reduce misting.

SPRINKLERS AIMED INCORRECTLY OR OVER SPRAYING: Look for sprinklers spraying water onto walls, hardscapes, vehicles, or other areas outside the landscape. Adjust the sprinkler heads to aim water only where it's needed.

SIGNIFICANT OVERWATERING: Look for pooling water, runoff, or soggy soil after irrigation. This could mean run-times are too long, watering is too frequent, or the system is running after rain. Shorten runtimes, reduce watering frequency, or install a rain sensor to prevent overwatering.

LEAKS: While the system is running, walk through your landscape and look for water pooling on the surface or spraying where it shouldn't. Tighten loose connections, replace damaged pipes, or repair broken fittings to stop leaks.

POOR SPRINKLER COVERAGE: Spray from one sprinkler should reach the next. Uneven coverage can lead to over-watering in some areas and dry spots in others. Adjust sprinkler spacing or replace nozzles with ones that provide better coverage.

EROSION ON SLOPES: Look for bare soil, empty patches, or signs of soil washing away on slopes. Adjust sprinkler run-times to reduce runoff, add mulch to slopes, or install ground cover plants to hold soil in place.

DRY OR DORMANT PLANTS: Some plants naturally lose leaves or color with the seasons, but dry or brittle plants may not be getting enough water. Check by feeling the leaves or grass. Adjust watering to ensure plants receive enough moisture, especially during hot or dry periods.

BROKEN OR MISSING SPRINKLERS AND DRIPPERS: Run a sprinkler test cycle to check for heads that don't pop up fully, are missing, or have broken parts. Inspect drip lines for cuts, misplacement, or leaks. Replace any damaged parts and reposition drip lines for proper coverage.

BAD DRIPPER SPACING IN YOUR MICRO-IRRIGATION SYSTEM: Drippers should be placed near the root zone of each plant, not on bare soil or far from plants. Reposition drippers to ensure they deliver water directly to the base of each plant.

SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR (IF USED) IS NOT FULLY BURIED: Make sure the sensor is buried deep enough to get accurate readings, following the manufacturer's instructions. Re-bury the sensor at the correct depth according to the manufacturer's guidelines.

ADJUST YOUR SPRINKLER SCHEDULE EACH SEASON: Use a weather based controller in weather mode or adjust timers to match a seasonal schedule. Plant water needs change with the seasons, so your schedule should too. Update your controller settings or consult a seasonal watering guide to match plant needs.