Lawn Watering

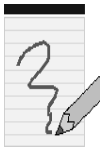
Guideline 3

Did you know: During the summer, water use can more than double due to lawn and garden watering. Preserve the environment, save money, save fish, and save water by following these simple steps when watering your lawn.

1. Place three or more flat bottom cans or mugs randomly around your lawn. Inexpensive rain gauges may also be used.

2. Turn on your sprinkler(s) for 15 minutes.

3. Measure and record the depth of water in each can (mug) with a ruler. Determine the average depth of water for all of the cans combined. Notice the uniformity of your water application.



4. Refer to the example & chart on the back to determine the number of minutes you should water each week. Record the times for future reference. (See Guideline 6 - Soil Preparation & Planning for additional information.)

REMEMBER: Your watering practices should be influenced by the weather. Decrease watering time during cool or humid conditions and skip a scheduled watering after a moderate rainfall. This brochure is only a guide. Consult your local nursery, garden center or county extension office for more information.

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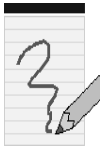

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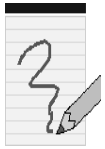

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Example

(Season is Spring)

CAN # 1	1/2 inch	12.7 mm
CAN # 2	1/4 inch	6.35 mm
CAN # 3	1/2 inch	12.7 mm
CAN # 4	1/4 inch	6.35 mm
TOTAL	1.5 inches	38.10 mm
AVERAGE *	1.50 / 4 = 3/8 inch (approx.)	38.10 / 4 = 9.52 mm

WATERING TIME: 20 minutes

* Average equals total amount of water in all cans divided by the total number of cans.
* One inch of water a week, including rainfall, is all your lawn needs.

Lawn watering depth chart

Average Depth in Test Can		Minutes to Water Once Each Week in		
Inches	Millimeters	Spring	Summer	Fall
1/8	3.2	60	120	48
¼	6.3	30	60	24
3/8	9.5	20	40	16
½	12.7	15	30	12
5/8	15.9	12	24	9.5
¾	19.1	10	20	8
1.0	25.4	8	16	6.5
1-1/8	28.6	6	13	5

More Information

Washington State Department of Health
Office of Drinking Water
P.O. Box 47822 • Olympia, WA 98504-7828
360-236-3100 • 1-800-521-0323
http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/

DOH PUB. # 331-120-3

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