

# How to water your landscaping wisely, responsibly, and efficiently.

Guidelines provided by **Davidson Irrigation**  
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**People water too much, too often, at the wrong times, and the wrong way.** Not only does this waste a valuable and increasingly scarce resource, it also makes your lawn look worse by increasing disease, insect, and thatch problems.

**Do not use sprinklers in the hot sun.** Using sprinklers when it's sunny and 75+ degrees is wasting water and money. Practically all the water applied will evaporate into the hot air before ever reaching the roots.

**Do not use sprinklers when it's raining.** Your sprinklers should be set with a rain sensor and also set correctly by a timer in accordance with local regulations.

**You can hurt your lawn with 'over-watering'.** The roots of the grass need to grow deep and strong. When you constantly water, the roots cannot grow deeper and stronger to seek moisture, they become short and too shallow. The longer and larger the root, the better to endure dry spells.

**Using sprinklers to water the street.** People set them to go off in the middle of the night, run too long and never see where the sprinklers are pointed. You can water asphalt all you want, but it's not going to grow.

**Flowers, shrubs, and trees do not require the same amount of water.** Different plants have different water requirements. Treating them all the same means one will be happy and the others suffer.

**Watering the grass every single day.** This turns the lawn into a shallow-rooted water junkie that demands a water fix every day. Water deeply once or twice a week for specific amount of time. Your lawn will be healthier and more drought-tolerant. It will also have fewer weeds, like dollar weed, that thrive in overwatered lawns.

**Water smarter by watering less.** So how can you have a nice lawn while using a modicum of water? You should have a lawn inspection and tune-up regularly and when clocks change in the spring and fall.

**Choose a grass well-adapted to your region.** When it doesn't rain, the grass goes dormant and turns brown. Eventually, it rains and the grass wakes up and turns green again. Simple. St. Augustine grows well here, but needs more water than Zoysia and Bermuda. Bottom line — pick a grass suited to your climate that doesn't need a lot of water.

**Water at the right time.** The best time to water is very early morning before it gets hot. Most of the water will make it to the roots. Plus, the grass blades will dry quickly, preventing disease problems.

**Don't mow your grass during droughts.** Cut grass loses lots of moisture through cut blades and turns brown if you don't water it. So don't cut. Suggested rule during hot, dry summers is, don't cut the grass until it rains two days in a row, or as needed to your specific grass.

**Cut your grass at the highest recommended height for your grass.** Taller grass shades and cools the ground, reducing moisture loss. In a drought, taller grass always stays greener longer than shorter grass.