



TIP # 7

KEYS TO WATERING

Efficient irrigation means applying the right amount of water to your landscape, no more or less. A properly installed system will ensure plants receive adequate water on the right schedule. Water more deeply and less often.

Designing an Efficient Irrigation System

1. Group plants, trees and shrubs in zones based on water and sunlight needs.
2. An automatic controller allows each zone to be watered on a schedule that can be adjusted. Timers should be adjusted at least once a month to optimize efficiency.
3. A rain sensor prevents unnecessary watering when natural rainfall is sufficient.
4. A backflow prevention device must be installed and inspected according to district.
5. Regular checks for clogged or damaged pipes and sprinkler heads helps prevent water waste.
6. Don't water sidewalks and driveways.

Watering Guide Inches of Water Per Week

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
1.5"	2"	2.5"	2"	1.5"	1"

Measure the sprinkler system output

1. Place four, one pint containers at different places within the spray pattern.
2. Water the lawn for 15 minutes.
3. Combine the four containers and measure the total depth of water collected. This is the sprinkler output for one hour.
4. Adjust your watering time for correct output.

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RELATED INFORMATION SOURCES

AZ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WWW.AZDEQ.GOV
(602) 771-2300

AZ DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
WWW.AZWATER.GOV
(602) 771-8500

PROJECT WET
(WATER EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS)
[HTTP://CALS.ARIZONA.EDU/ARIZONAWET/](http://CALS.ARIZONA.EDU/ARIZONAWET/)

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WWW.WATERUSEITWISELY.COM

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