

TURF / LAWN

	Spring			Summer			Fall			Winter		
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Number of Days on	3			4			2			Off		
Start Times	3			3			3			Off		
Minutes per station	5			5			5			Off		
Total minutes per week	45			60			30			Off		

GROUND COVERS AND SHRUBS

	Spring			Summer			Fall			Winter		
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Number of Days on	2			3			2			Off		
Start Times	2			2			2			Off		
Minutes per station	5			5			5			Off		
Total minutes per week	20			30			20			Off		

LOW WATER USE / DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS

	Spring			Summer			Fall			Winter		
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Number of Days on	1			2			1			Off		
Start Times	2			2			2			Off		
Minutes per station	5			5			5			Off		
Total minutes per week	10			20			10			Off		

You can save literally thousands of gallons of water on your landscape, and save your plants from drowning, just by ensuring the proper settings of your irrigation controller. But you can't just set it and forget it - to get those savings, you need to change the watering schedules with the changing seasons.

Programming your controller:

1. Set the current time and day and replace the back-up battery that holds the program memory.
2. Start with program A for your lawn areas. Group stations or valves that require the same watering frequencies together on the same program.
3. Select each station and enter the minutes of watering time for each valve.
4. Select the time you'd like your irrigation to start. You can have 2 or 3 different start times per day.
5. Select the days you want your irrigation to run, making sure you don't water on the same day you mow the lawn.
6. Program A is complete. Use programs B & C for other zones that require less water, such as ground covers, shrubs, low water use plantings. etc.

DEFINITIONS

SPRING - The season of growth!. **March, April and May** are considered the months of spring in California. Typically plants start to require supplemental water from irrigation systems during these months. Average maximum daily temperatures in Redwood City typically range from 65 to 75 degrees fahrenheit during these months. With no rain fall and temperatures in this range, use the spring schedule.

SUMMER - The warmest season of the year. **June, July, and August** are the months when plants slow their growth because the heat stresses their growing ability. The days are long and the average maximum daily temperatures range from 75 to 83 degrees in Redwood City. July is typically the hottest month of the year requiring an average of 7 inches of irrigation for lawns. Re-set your controller to provide the necessary water for summer.

FALL - The season of harvest. **September, October, and November** are considered the months of fall. The days begin to get shorter and the average maximum daily temperatures continuously drop, moving from 80 down to 65 degrees. As the days get shorter and temperature drops, you don't need to water as frequently as you did in the middle of summer. The average inches of irrigation for lawns are: September - 5", October - 3.5" and November - 2".

WINTER - The season of short days and lowest temperatures. **December, January, and February** are considered the months of winter. Rainfall normally takes care of any water requirements for your landscaping during this period. Colder temperatures slow plant growth and eliminate the need for additional water from irrigation systems. **It is very important to turn your controller off during these months.** In dry years supplemental water might be needed as early as February.

NUMBER OF DAYS ON: Typical irrigation controllers allow a program to be scheduled to operate any day of the week. Operation can happen on any number of selected days. Adding or subtracting days is a common way to adjust controllers for increasing or decreasing seasonal water requirements. Multiple Programs A, B, and C, allow you to run different valves on different days with different run times.

MINUTES PER STATION: Each station or valve is given a run time in minutes that is determined by the amount of time it takes for water to saturate the soil and start running off. A typical time for water to run off in clay soils with a spray system is 5 minutes. This is the maximum amount of watering time that you should apply to allow the soil to absorb the water. This is known as "Cycle and Soak". Apply water and allow time for it to soak in before applying additional required water.

START TIMES: Each program in the controller has two to four start times depending on the model of the irrigation controller. Repeated start times allows for the "Cycle and Soak" principle by giving time for the water to be absorbed into the soil and thereby avoid run-off . If we need 10 minutes of watering, per day, then we would use two start times one hour apart with a 5 minute station run time each. Start times for different programs should not conflict with each other.

TOTAL MINUTES PER WEEK: The suggested watering schedules are based on the average historic weather data and corresponding monthly irrigation requirements. We assume the irrigation system is well designed and maintained. Your individual irrigation system may apply water faster or slower based on the design, type and spacing of sprinkler heads. Also, significant differences in temperatures can occur throughout the year that are out of the monthly averages. For these reasons **YOU MAY HAVE TO ADJUST UP OR DOWN** to meet the watering needs of your lawns and landscaping.