A GUIDE TO WATER CONSERVATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION
For more information on lawn-watering and other home lawn and garden problems contact:
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http://extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla/mg

Lawn Water Guide
for Eastern Oregon

Other Resources

IRZ Consulting, based in Hermiston, OR, has a very useful web-based tool that will generate weather reports based on the weather station selected. Reports available include a center pivot report, crop water use, weather reports from various stations, and a wheel and hand line report.

Access this tool through their website: www.irz.com and select “Northwest Irrigation Network.”

Other OSU Umatilla County Master Gardener Frequently Asked Question publications available are:

How do I get rid of Burmudagrass in my lawn?
How do I get rid of wild Blackberry vines in my yard?
Why are my tomatoes not producing fruit?
How to start a Community Garden.
How to start a Home Garden.
How to start plants from seeds.
Are there really laws about fruit trees?

These FAQ’s are available on-line at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla/mg or at your local Umatilla County OSU Extension office.

If you would like to become an OSU Master Gardener—please contact your local Extension office for a Master Gardener application form.

Water Conservation ~
Making the most efficient use of our most precious natural resource.
During the summer, nearly half of all residential water in Oregon is used to irrigate landscape areas around homes. A significant reduction in water use can occur by using efficient water ways to maintain our lawns and gardens. The Lawn Watering Guide offers suggestions to gain efficiency while maintaining an attractive lawn.

Many residential landscapes are over-irrigated by as much as 20 to 40 percent. Overwatering can also lead to disease problems and leaching of fertilizers. Evapotranspiration (ET) is the easiest way to determine if you are over or under watering your lawn. ET, measured in inches or millimeters, is the amount of water that evaporates from the soil plus the amount of water that transpires through the leaves of a specific plant, in this case lawn grass.

The following instructions will help you use ET information to prepare a lawn-watering schedule for your lawn.

Set five flat-bottom cans or coffee mugs at various places on your lawn. Try to place them half way between the sprinklers or in areas that generally receive the least water. More than five cans may be necessary for large lawns.

1. Turn on your sprinkler for exactly 15 minutes.
2. Measure the depth of water in each can and determine the average water depth of the five cans.
3. Check the chart for the water depth in inches according to the season.
4. Read the number of minutes you should water about every second or third day and record the times for future reference.

NOTE: Use these times as a guide only. You may need to water more when it's extra hot and windy (usually 3 times a week), or less when it's cool or rainy.

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### Additional Water-Saving Tips

- Best watering times are early morning.
- Adjust to the guide recommendations gradually to allow the grass root system time to adjust to change.
- Watch for visual signs of under-watering such as dry spots or wilting.
- If water is flowing off the grass into the gutter, divide the watering time into two blocks to allow the soil to accept the applied water.
- Increase the amount of water over the spring season to reach the summer water needs, and gradually decrease the amount of water in the fall as the winter rains approach.
- Reduce watering times by 20 percent of the time suggested in the guide if you have a Bermuda grass lawn or another type of low water-using grass.
- Water slightly more for small lawns surrounded by concrete or other heat-reflecting urban structures.