Sample Lawn Watering Schedules

Biweekly Period	Approximate Lawn Water Needs (Inches per Week)[1]	Total Watering Time Per Week for Standard Spray Heads[2]	Total Watering Time Per Week for Rotary Heads[2]
May 1-15	0.94	38 Minutes	90 Minutes
May 16-31	1.21	48 Minutes	116 Minutes
June 1-15	1.39	56 Minutes	134 Minutes
June 16-30	1.60	64 Minutes	154 Minutes
July 1-15	1.71	68 Minutes	164 Minutes
July 16-31	1.70	68 Minutes	164 Minutes
Aug 1-15	1.49	60 Minutes	144 Minutes
Aug 16-31	1.33	54 Minutes	128 Minutes
Sep 1-15	1.08	44 Minutes	104 Minutes
Sep 16-30	0.85	34 Minutes	82 Minutes

(1) Use this schedule as a reference, making adjustments as needed to reflect actual weather, site conditions and specific sprinklers being used. When water needs are met by rain, reduce sprinkling accordingly.
(2) These run times are based on average results for spray sprinklers. They assume an application rate of 1-1/2 inches per hour for standard spray heads, and 5/8 inch per hour for rotating sprinklers.

SCHEDULING TIPS:

When to Water: Running sprinklers between sunset and sunrise is best, as temperatures are at their lowest and the air is calm. Water pressure also tends to be most reliable prior to daylight, when other water demands are low. Daytime watering results in high water losses from evaporation, and water drops on leaves and grass blades can cause scorching. Daytime temperatures often peak around 4 p.m. and evening breezes are common, so wait until *at least* 8 p.m. if you prefer evening sprinkling.

How to Water: If your timer has ***multiple start time*** capability, utilizing it will allow you to split a day's watering into two or more cycles. This can be particularly beneficial in our region where clay soils tend to absorb water very slowly. 'Cycle and soak' irrigation allows water from each cycle to absorb into the soil before more water is applied. For example, the above chart suggests sprinkling during the first part of June for 64 total minutes per week when using standard spray heads. Splitting this time among four watering days would mean 16 minutes of run time each watering day. Rather than applying this water all at once, try splitting each day's watering into two cycles of 8 minutes each. To do this, set the timer for two start times per watering day spaced about an hour apart (but making sure to leave enough separation between start times to allow all zones on that program to finish running).

Shrub and Tree Watering: The sample schedules above apply to lawns. Most shrubs and trees prefer deeper, less frequent watering. If shrubs and trees are watered with sprinklers (rather than drip), try cutting the above run times by 1/2 to 2/3. If your timer has ***multiple program*** capability, place your lawns on program 'A', and your shrub/tree zones on program 'B'. This will allow you to water your lawns more days each week than shrub areas. To conserve even more water, consider switching your trees and shrubs to drip irrigation. If trees are located in lawn areas, occasionally spot water them deeply.

MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION

Medford Water Commission
200 South Ivy Street – Room 177
Medford, Oregon 97501

Phone: (541) 774-2430 **FAX:** (541) 774-2555 **Email:** wtrcom@ci.Medford.or.us **Online:** www.medfordwater.org