

For additional tips on how to irrigate your lawn more efficiently, you can go to the following web sites sponsored by these organizations: contact you water supplier, local Utah State University Extension Horticulture Specialist, or one of the following organizations:

Center for Water Efficient Landscaping
www.hort.usu.edu/CWEL

US Bureau of Reclamation
www.uc.usbr.gov/progactwaterconsindex.html

Utah Division of Water Resources
<http://conservewater.utah.gov>

Utah Irrigation Association
<http://www.utahia.org>

Utah State University Extension
<http://ext.usu.edu>

Utah Water Conservation Forum
<http://www.utahwaterforum.org>

Weber Basin Water Conservancy District
<http://www.weberbasin.com>

Slow the Flow
<http://slowtheflow.org/tools-and-resources/>



Set Your Watering Schedule

The following schedule shows how often to irrigate during the growing season.

Irrigation Schedule	
Month	Interval
Startup until April 30	Once every 7 days
May	Once every 4 days
June	Once every 3 days
July	Once every 3 days
August	Once every 3 days
September	Once every 6 days
October 1 to Shutdown	Once every 12 days

This schedule is based upon average or normal weather conditions. Unusual warm conditions may require an occasional irrigation a day earlier than scheduled. Rain storms or cool periods may allow postponing or skipping an irrigation.

By following the above suggestions, you will apply the **maximum** amount of water required by the lawn. You will also use about half of the water the average Utah homeowner uses. This schedule could save you as much as **one-fourth** of your yearly water usage. Even so, you may still be using more than is necessary.



Some Lawn Watering and Care Tips From:

Mayor, Roger Fridal



Please only water during low evaporation times of the day from 8:00 pm to 8:00 am.

Let your lawn stress a bit:

It may sound odd, but the best thing you can do right now for your lawn is let it go as long as possible without water. Our soils are still nice and moist from the moisture we received this past winter and our recent spring rain storms. Soil is like a reservoir for our plant roots, when the reservoir is full, it's full and necessarily won't hold any more water. Adding more water won't do anything. It will either drain out of the root zone or run off and be wastes. Let your soil get dry before watering. Try holding off watering until Mother's Day or even later depending on our weather.

Letting the soil dry out a bit by waiting as long as possible to water will forces plant roots deeper into the ground. The same principle applies later on by not watering as frequently when you do water. These deep roots will keep your grass nice and green once it gets hot. Watering everyday encourages shallow roots (why would plant roots need to go deep if they don't have to) and the buildup of thatch.

Thatch prevents water from permeating into the soil and promotes shallow roots, shallow roots dry up quickly in the heat, causing individuals to think that they need to water more frequently.

Why is this a good time of year to let your lawn stress a bit? Because it's still cool and you won't see the effects stress as much as if you were trying to train your grass to grow deep roots in July and August.

Aerate

As mentioned above, thatch can be an issue. Contrary to popular belief, thatch is NOT dead grass clippings that have been allowed to fall during mowing. Thatch is made up of tiny surface roots that make a mat-like layer at the surface of the soil that oftentimes won't let water the through. What causes it? Overwatering and too much fertilizer. Aerating your lawn once a year with a good core aerator is a good habit to get into. You may want to do it twice a year if you have heavy soils (such as clay). Those with sandy soils or good irrigation practices can often get away with aerating only every other year.

Fix your irrigation system

This may seem obvious, but as we've seen, many homes will have dry spots in their yards, MANY times these dry spots are the results of a miss-managed or poorly designed sprinkler system. These dry spots can often be the results of sunken, tilted, broken, or clogged sprinkler heads. Often these dry spots can be caused by sprinkler heads that are turned the wrong direction or heads that are spaced to far apart. Fixing your sprinkler system before the season starts will help you avoid the dry spots.

Do a monthly sprinkler system water audit. Turn on each zone and see if your dry spots are getting hit enough by the sprinkler heads. Most of us want to be water efficient, so we water during the night and are not able to see how well our sprinkler systems work, thus by routinely running each zone we can verify how our sprinkler system is working and will be able to observe what's going on with your sprinkler system and in your yard.

Information provided by the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District

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