

Managing a Water Efficient Lawn

Bringing your lawn out of dormancy (Wake up your lawn!)

- ❖ Mow turf low (first mowing only!) or rake grass to remove dead material and allow sunlight and warmth in.
- ❖ Wait to irrigate until soil temperatures are at least 55-65 °F.
- ❖ Irrigate deep into the root zone and only water 2-3 times a week to encourage deep rooting.
- ❖ Learn how long it takes to wet the entire root zone (use a shovel to check the moisture depth and eliminate runoff by cycling the irrigation).

Ongoing lawn maintenance:

- ❖ Maintain deep rooting by timing irrigation to penetrate the root zone and irrigate infrequently.
- ❖ Adjust irrigation to match the seasons.
- ❖ Only water between 5 pm and 10 am and on odd or even days to match your address.
- ❖ Make sure all the parts of your irrigation system are functioning properly including a pressure reducing valve (Check out our PRV rebate program).
- ❖ Keep the mower height high (2 - 3 inches).
- ❖ Only mow when necessary, when grass is around 3 -to 4 ½ inches high (growth slows in the summer so you can reduce your mowing schedule!)
- ❖ Allow clippings to return nutrients and serve as mulch by keeping them on the ground.
- ❖ Do not apply more fertilizer than manufacturer recommendations and apply in the spring and fall.

When should you mow your lawn?

We recommend you mow your lawn when it is 3 to 4 ½ inches high and set mower height at 2 to 3 inches. If you want to determine your desired lawn height, use the steps below.

1. Determine the height you would like to maintain your lawn. (We recommend between 2.5 in. to 3 in.)
2. Divide that height by 0.667
3. Only mow when you grass reaches this height. Most turf grows slower when it is hot.

Example

Desired grass height: 2.5 (2 ½ inches)

$$2.5 \div 0.667 = 3.75$$

Set your mower to 2.5 inches and mow when grass is 3.75 (3 ¾) inches tall