

Landscape Watering Frequently Asked Questions

What time of day should I water?

Water during the morning or in the evening, 9 p.m. to 9 a.m., never during the heat of the day or when the wind is blowing. Check with your water utility to see if they have a day of the week or a set number of times during the week you may water.

How do I know what watering restrictions apply to my area?

Check the website of the city/water provider where you live.

Is there an easy way to tell when areas of my yard need watering?

Insert a 6" screwdriver into the ground. If it can be easily inserted you don't need to water. You should check your beds and multiple areas of your yard this way before deciding to water.

Should I always water my yard on my designated watering day?

If it has rained the day before or a 6" screwdriver inserts easily into the soil, you don't need to water. Another test for your turf is when footprints or mower tracks become easily visible on the turf or when large areas of the lawn take on a bluish-gray color, you need to water.

Is it true that too much watering can weaken my landscape?

Less frequent but deeper watering of an established landscape forces the root system deeper to seek water and establishes a more sturdy and drought-resistant landscape.

Does my entire yard need the same amount of water?

No. Lawns, trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals all have different water needs. Check the areas of your yard separately to determine if they need watering.

What is the best way to water my established trees?

The roots of a tree extend out from the tree three to five times the height of the tree. Soaking the tree next to the trunk is not adequate. Normal, general landscape watering provides adequate moisture for established trees.

Do flowering plants need the same amount of water as my lawn?

Select and plant flowers by their specific water and sunlight needs and adjust your watering method to these areas. Watch the plants for leaves that are drooping and don't recover when they are not in direct sun and water the plants at that time.



For more information, contact:
(303) 757-5611
www.greenco.org | www.alcc.com

Key Drought Messages for Water Providers

Should the same watering schedule be followed throughout the entire season?

No. Your yard will require less water in the spring and fall than it will during the summer months. Change your automatic timer or watering schedule accordingly. If you water with a hose use a household timer to remind you to move or turn off the water.

How can I find out how much water my yard is getting?

Place a shallow container like a tuna fish can in the yard to measure the water that is put out by your sprinklers. This will help you determine how long you should water. Check your sprinkler heads weekly for damage or breaks.

Does aeration really help my lawn?

Yes. It will relieve soil compaction and allow better water penetration. The result is less run-off and better plant health.

What is the right height for my lawn?

Set your mower to the highest level your mower will allow and keep the blade sharp so it will cut the blades of grass properly. Leave your grass clippings on the turf or use a mulching mower to recycle moisture and nutrients back into the yard.

What should I do with brown spots in my lawn?

Be willing to accept a less-than-perfect lawn. Respond to the brown spots by hand watering, not by watering the entire yard. Check the coverage of sprinklers and look for broken lines or heads and clogged nozzles. Also check for disease or insect problems. Not all brown spots are caused by water problems.

What is the benefit of mulch?

Mulch will reduce evaporation, retain moisture in the soil and control weeds.

Consumer Resources

Let the green industry help you use water wisely while keeping your plants healthy and enjoying a beautiful yard. The following resources provide great information:

GreenCO.org | Water Conservation Page

Resources, fact sheets and reports on science-based water-saving strategies.

ALCC Find a Pro | www.alcc.com/find-a-landscape-professional

Helps you find a professional landscape contractor.



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Sustainable Landscape Management Colorado certificate holders | www.alcc.com/slm-certificate-holders

Identify professionals who have earned the SLM certificate.

ALCC Tip of the Week | www.alcc.com/tip-of-the-week-email

Weekly email that focuses on sustainable landscape practices and advice.

Landscape Colorado Facebook page | www.facebook.com/LandscapeinColorado

Sustainable landscape tips and trends.

Plant Select® | <https://plantselect.org> (find them on Facebook and Instagram, too)

More beauty, less water – Plant Select’s goal is to create smart plant choices inspired for the Rocky Mountain Region.

***Green Industries of Colorado** is an alliance of seven trade associations representing all facets of the horticulture and landscape industries. GreenCO members are committed to water conservation and industry-wide best management practices as a way of doing business. We provide expert advice on how to select, plan for and properly care for plants and landscapes.*



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