WATER WISE LAWN CARE TIPS

Your lawn can still be green and healthy when you water sustainably. Follow the right watering schedule—and the tips below—to set yours up for success.



MOW

- Use your mower's highest setting to promote healthy root growth.
- Mow frequently enough so you only remove one-third of the grass blade to prevent stress (1-2 times per week).
- Let clippings fall rather than bagging them to recycle nutrients.
- Sharpen your mower's blade twice per year for a clean cut.
- Mow when the grass blades are dry to prevent disease.



FERTILIZE

- Fertilize mid-spring, early fall and late fall to sustain steady growth throughout the year.
- Use a fertilizer with nitrogen; both traditional and organic types work.
- Avoid weed-and-feed formulas. Pull or spot spray weeds to prevent damage to nearby trees and shrubs.



CORE AERATE

- Core aerate once or twice per year in spring or fall to provide oxygen to the soil and encourage deeper roots.
- Water thoroughly 24-48 hours before aerating.
- Apply grass seed to thin areas after core aerating.
- Avoid power raking.

WINTER WATER

- Prevent winter kill and mite damage by watering dry lawns once or twice a month November through April.
- Watering on warm days allows the water to be fully absorbed.
- Disconnect the hose afterward to prevent freeze damage.

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WATER WISE LAWN WATERING GUIDE

Follow and master these steps to achieve a healthy, water-efficient lawn.

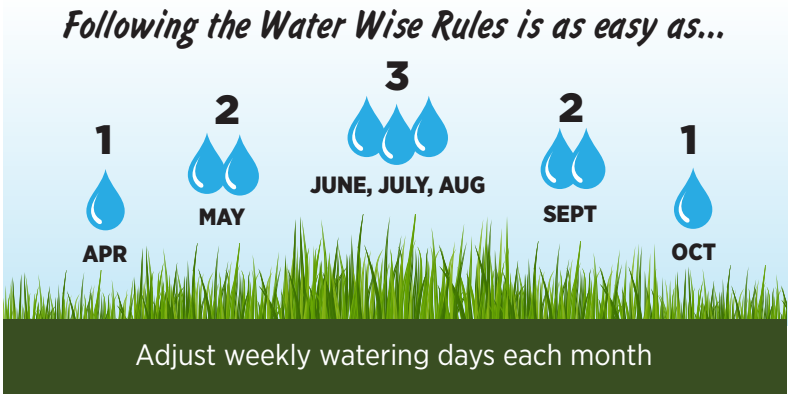
STEP 1
Water according to season
Adjust your weekly watering days each month. Water once or twice a week in spring and fall and three times a week in summer.

STEP 2
Apply 1/2" of water each watering day
Water the right amount of time for your sprinkler type. Different types of sprinklers apply water at different rates. Water long enough to apply one-half inch of water. Use these recommendations as a starting point and adjust as needed.

STEP 3
Use cycle and soak
If you see runoff before your sprinkler cycle ends, break the total run time into two or three segments. Wait an hour between each segment to allow the water to soak into the soil.

STEP 4
Choose early morning or late evening, not both
Don't water for short periods in both the morning and evening. The water doesn't soak deeply into the soil, leading to shallow roots and unhealthy grass.

Visit csu.org for more Water Wise information, including irrigation rebates and instructional videos.



FIXED-SPRAY



18 MINUTES

ROTORS



46 MINUTES

MULTI-STREAM



60 MINUTES

