



How much do I need to water? That's a good question!

The enclosed chart was developed by the City of Dallas Water Utilities irrigation auditors in an effort to assist customers with the programming of sprinkler system controllers. Landscape irrigation replaces water that has been lost to evaporation and replenishes water needed to sustain healthy plant material. The amount of water required to meet the plant's needs may vary depending on the plant type and current weather conditions. Since warm season turf is the most common plant material in this region, it is often used as a benchmark to determine the irrigation needs for a typical North Texas landscape.

The watering requirements for turf are based on a scientific measure of the plant's water demand for maximum production, taking current weather conditions into account. This requirement is then adjusted for the particular type of plant, which in this case is "warm season turf." Twenty six years of historical weather data was used to determine the ideal amount of irrigation that is necessary to sustain a D/FW landscape. This data was developed by the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service.

ABOUT THE ENCLOSED CHART

Sprinkler controller run times are calculated using the manufacturer's specifications for the three most common types of irrigation equipment. Different sprinkler head types may emit water at different precipitation rates, therefore, the range of run times recommended takes these variations into consideration. The run times on the chart are calculated on a per week basis for each section.

Many recently manufactured controllers have a "season adjust" or "water budget" feature. The chart includes a percentage change to help determine the monthly programming necessary for maximum water conservation. Since July has the highest water requirement, it is used in this chart as the base month for all seasonal adjustments.

Remember that the goal is to water for allowable stress, or use as little water as possible to achieve maximum water efficiency while maintaining a healthy, attractive turf. A range of "normal stress" (just enough water to stay healthy) to "no stress" (all the water the turf could use) is provided in order to help quantify allowable stress. Lowering sprinkler run times saves water and money! However, the ultimate decision on run times is up to the property owner.

Seasonal Irrigation Adjustments

Month	Type of Head	Run Time Mins/Week		Mins/Week Average	Seasonal Adjust
		Norm Stress	No Stress		
JANUARY	Rotor	0	0	0	0%
	Rotary Spray	0	0	0	
	Fixed Spray	0	0	0	
FEBRUARY	Rotor	9	14	11	6%
	Rotary Spray	6	9	8	
	Fixed Spray	2	4	3	
MARCH	Rotor	41	69	55	27%
	Rotary Spray	27	45	36	
	Fixed Spray	10	17	14	
APRIL	Rotor	108	179	143	69%
	Rotary Spray	71	118	94	
	Fixed Spray	27	45	36	
MAY	Rotor	130	217	173	84%
	Rotary Spray	85	142	114	
	Fixed Spray	32	54	43	
JUNE	Rotor	148	246	197	95%
	Rotary Spray	97	161	129	
	Fixed Spray	37	62	49	
JULY	Rotor	155	258	207	100%
	Rotary Spray	102	169	135	
	Fixed Spray	39	65	52	
AUGUST	Rotor	152	253	202	98%
	Rotary Spray	100	166	133	
	Fixed Spray	38	63	51	
SEPTEMBER	Rotor	115	192	153	74%
	Rotary Spray	75	126	100	
	Fixed Spray	29	48	38	
OCTOBER	Rotor	44	73	58	28%
	Rotary Spray	29	48	38	
	Fixed Spray	11	18	15	
NOVEMBER	Rotor	9	15	12	6%
	Rotary Spray	6	10	8	
	Fixed Spray	2	4	3	
DECEMBER	Rotor	0	0	0	0%
	Rotary Spray	0	0	0	
	Fixed Spray	0	0	0	

The chart below lists the type of heads for each section in your irrigation system.

Type of Head	Section Numbers
Rotor	
Rotary Spray	
Fixed Spray	
Drip	