

Lawn Watering Guides

During the summer, nearly half of all residential water in Oregon is used to irrigate landscape areas around homes. A significant reduction in water use can occur by using more efficient ways to maintain lawns and gardens. Many residential landscapes are over-irrigated by as much as 20 to 40 percent, often, due to lack of information about how much water the area actually needs. Over-watering can be avoided by using easy-to-use lawn-watering guides.

Here's how you can collect information about your watering system and use a lawn watering guide:

1. Set five flat-bottom cans or coffee mugs at various places on your lawn. Try to place them half way between the sprinklers or in areas that generally receive the least water. More than five cans may be necessary for large lawns.
2. Turn on your sprinkler for exactly 15 minutes.
3. Determine the average water depth of the five cans—you can pour the water from all five cans together, measure and divide by five for a quick average.
4. Check the chart for the water depth in inches according to the season.
5. Read the number of minutes you should water about every third day and record the times for future reference.



Water Conservation
Doing Our Share

Average Water Depth in Cans (Inches) after 15 Minutes											
	1/8	3/16	1/4	5/16	3/8	1/2	5/8	3/4	1	1 ¼	1 ½
COASTAL AREAS											
Number of Minutes to Water Twice Weekly											
Spring	41	27	20	16	14	10	8	6	5	4	3
Summer	49	33	24	19	16	12	9	8	6	4	4
Fall	26	17	13	10	8	6	5	4	3	2	2

NOTE: Use these times as a guide only. You may need to water more when it's extra hot or less when it's cool or rainy.