

Lawn Irrigation Tips

Spring is finally here and it is time to have your lawn irrigation systems checked and set up for summer. How you set your lawn irrigation has a big impact on the city water treatment plant - not only on how much water you use for irrigation but also when you use it.

Common practice is to set irrigation systems on a Monday/Wednesday/Friday early morning schedule. Because most of the irrigation systems are set to this schedule, the city's water treatment plants experience a very high demand on these days between 4:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Although the Utilities Department is currently able to accommodate these peak demand times, future growth and demand for water may require the construction of additional water storage, such as water tanks and towers, to be able to meet that high demand.

How can you help? You can help by spreading the community's demand for water over an entire week instead of three days. The city asks customers with lawn irrigation systems to set up their irrigation systems following this schedule:

- **Even house numbers – Monday/Wednesday/Friday**
- **Odd house numbers – Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday**

Additional lawn irrigation tips that will help use water wisely include:

- Adjust sprinklers to avoid over spray onto hard surfaces, such as sidewalks, patios and streets.
- Repair broken sprinkler heads immediately.
- Set sprinklers to activate between the hours of 3 a.m. and 10 a.m. to avoid waste from evaporation during hot afternoon hours.
- Use landscaping plants that can exist on natural rainfall or minimal supplemental watering.
- Install rain gauges or moisture sensors on automatic irrigation systems to monitor rainfall and avoid watering when it is not needed.
- If you notice water pooling or running off of your lawn, you may be applying more water than your lawn needs or can handle at one time. Consider reducing irrigation time, applications or splitting the watering times into two sessions with an hour in between to let the water absorb into the soil.

As we get ready for the hot summer months, please remember to use water wisely and not waste it. Please contact the Lawrence Utilities Department at (785) 832-7800 for more information on your water or the Douglas County Extension Service at (785) 843-7058 for more information on lawn and landscape water needs.



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