5 Easy Steps to Setting Your Irrigation Controller

1 Measure how much water per hour your sprinklers put out: place some tuna cans or other straight-sided containers around your lawn or throughout your planting beds, and run the sprinklers for 15 minutes. Average the depth of water in the cans and multiply by 4. This is your sprinkler output in inches per hour.

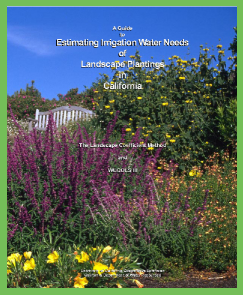
2 Look at the tables on the next pages. Find your region and the current month for your type of grass. It will show the total recommended minutes for watering each week for your sprinkler system's output in inches per hour. If the time is more than 15 minutes, divide it into 2, 3, or 4 waterings separated by a day or two.

3 Set the timer to turn on the sprinklers early in the morning and to run for the time needed. For example, if the chart indicates that you need to water for 45 minutes per week this month, set the timer to come on at 6:00 am for 15 minutes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. During the winter months, you can usually turn the system off, since the rainwater received by your lawn will be sufficient.

4 Look at your walkways during the first watering. If there is runoff from the lawn or beds that is not from overspray onto concrete, note how long the sprinklers run before the runoff occurs. This is the maximum time your system should run at one setting. If Step 2 determined that 15 minutes were needed each day, and runoff occurs at 8 minutes, then set your timer to come on for 7-8 minutes 2 times, or 5 minutes 3 times, with at least one hour between each watering.

5 To set the controller for your planting beds, determine which is the predominant plant in each area. Set the timer for those areas using the charts on back. If your main plant is not found on the back, use the free publication shown at the right:

http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/wucols00.pdf



Water Usage of Common Landscape Plants

Find your predominant plant below, and its water use classification. Consult the tables on the next two pages for your timer settings. If your plant is not listed below: Consult this online publication: **http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/wucols00.pdf**. **1)** Look on p.57 to find your region.
2) Look on p. 101 to find the official name of the plant if you only know the common name.
3) Look on pages 61-99 to find your plant's listing as Low, Medium, or High water use for your region.

PLANT NAME		WATER USE BY AREA		
COMMON	SCIENTIFIC	COASTAL	INLAND	DESERT:L-H
Abelia	*Abelia xgrandiflora*	M	M	N/A
African daisy	*Osteospermum fruticosa*	L	L	M-N/A
Azalea	*Rhododendron* (various species and hybrids)	M	H	N/A
Barberry	*Berberis thunbergii*	L	L	M-L
Begonia	*Begonia semperflorens*	M	M	M-N/A
Boxwood	*Buxus sempervirens* and hybrids	M	M	M
California lilac	*Ceanothus* (various species)	L	L	N/A-L
Camellia	*Camellia* (various species)	M	H-M	H-N/A
Cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster* (various species)	L-M	M	M
Coyote brush	*Baccharis pilularis*	L	L	N/A
Crape Myrtle	*Lagerstroemia indica*	M	M	M
Daylily	*Hemerocallis* hybrids	M	M	M
Escallonia	*Escallonia* hybrids	M	M	M-N/A
Euonymus	*Euonymus* (various species and hybrids)	M	M	M
Euryops	*Euryops pectinatus*	L-M	L-M	M
False heather	*Cuphea hyssopifolia*	M	M	N/A
Fountain Grass	*Pennisetum setaceum* ('Rubrum')	M	L	L
Fortnight lily, African iris	*Dietes* (various species and hybrids)	M	M	M-N/A
Gazania	*Gazania* hybrids	M	M	M
Heavenly bamboo	*Nandina domestica*	L	M	M
Hydrangea	*Hydrangea* (various species and hybrids)	M	M	H
Indian hawthorn	*Raphiolepsis indica*	M	M	M
Juniper	*Juniperus* (various species and hybrids)	L	L-M	L-M
Lantana	*Lantana camara, L. montevidensis,* hybrids	L	L	M-N/A
Lily-of-the-Nile	*Agapanthus praecox orientalis*	M	M	M-N/A
Mock Orange	*Pittosporum* (various species)	M	M	M
Myoporum	*Myoporum parvifolium*	L	L	M-N/A
New Zealand flax	*Phormium tenax*	L	M	M-N/A
Photinia	*Photinia fraseri*	M	M	M
Privet	*Ligustrum japonicum*	M	M	M
Rose	*Rosa* hybrids	M	M	H (some M)
Star Jasmine	*Trachelospermum jasminoides*	M	M	M
Verbena	*Verbena* hybrids	L-M	L-M	M-N/A
Viburnum	*Viburnum* (various species and hybrids)	M	M	M-N/A
Vinca	*Vinca minor* (*V. major* is considered invasive)	M	M	M

Watering Guide for Northern California

FOR YOUR LAWN: Find the table below for your region, cut it out, highlight the column for your sprinkler output, and hang it by your irrigation controller. If your lawn looks best in summer, use the warm season grass chart; if it looks best in late fall and early spring, use the cool-season grass chart. **FOR BEDS**: If your main plant is a HIGH water user, use the time for a cool-season grass; if MEDIUM, use the time for a warm season grass; if LOW, use ½ the time for a warm-season grass.

Region 1: Northern California Coast

Warm Season Grass					Cool Season Grass				
Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:					Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:				
	½ in	1 in	1 ½ in	2 in		½ in	1 in	1½ in	2 in
JAN	Warm-season turfgrasses are not recommended in this region				JAN	15	7	5	4
FEB					FEB	36	18	12	9
MAR					MAR	55	27	18	14
APR					APR	67	34	22	17
MAY					MAY	88	44	29	22
JUN					JUN	97	48	32	24
JUL					JUL	95	47	32	24
AUG					AUG	90	45	30	23
SEP					SEP	76	38	25	19
OCT					OCT	48	24	16	12
NOV					NOV	32	16	11	8
DEC					DEC	21	11	7	5

Region 2: Northern Inland Valleys

Warm Season Grass					Cool Season Grass				
Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:					Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:				
	½ in	1 in	1½ in	2 in		½ in	1 in	1½ in	2 in
JAN	19	9	6	5	JAN	25	13	8	6
FEB	32	16	11	8	FEB	42	21	14	11
MAR	50	25	17	13	MAR	67	34	22	17
APR	69	35	23	17	APR	92	46	31	23
MAY	101	50	34	25	MAY	134	67	45	34
JUN	126	63	42	32	JUN	168	84	56	42
JUL	132	66	44	33	JUL	176	88	59	44
AUG	120	60	40	30	AUG	160	80	53	40
SEP	95	47	32	24	SEP	126	63	42	32
OCT	57	28	19	14	OCT	76	38	25	19
NOV	25	13	8	6	NOV	34	17	11	8
DEC	13	6	4	3	DEC	17	8	6	4

Region 3: Northeastern Mountain Valleys

Warm Season Grass					Cool Season Grass				
Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:					Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:				
	½ in	1 in	1 ½ in	2 in		½ in	1 in	1 ½ in	2 in
JAN	Warm-season turfgrasses are not recommended in this region				JAN	17	8	6	4
FEB					FEB	34	17	11	8
MAR					MAR	59	29	20	15
APR					APR	101	50	34	25
MAY					MAY	134	67	45	34
JUN					JUN	168	84	56	42
JUL					JUL	210	105	70	53
AUG					AUG	176	88	59	44
SEP					SEP	126	63	42	32
OCT					OCT	76	38	25	19
NOV					NOV	25	13	9	6
DEC					DEC	17	9	6	4

Region 4: Sacramento Valley

Warm Season Grass					Cool Season Grass				
Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:					Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is:				
	½ in	1 in	1 ½ in	2 in		½ in	1 in	1 ½ in	2 in
JAN	19	9	6	5	JAN	25	13	8	6
FEB	44	22	15	11	FEB	59	29	20	15
MAR	69	35	23	17	MAR	92	46	31	23
APR	101	50	34	25	APR	134	67	45	34
MAY	126	63	42	32	MAY	168	84	56	42
JUN	158	79	53	39	JUN	210	105	70	53
JUL	164	82	55	41	JUL	218	109	73	55
AUG	145	72	48	36	AUG	193	97	64	48
SEP	113	57	38	28	SEP	151	76	50	38
OCT	82	41	27	20	OCT	109	55	36	27
NOV	38	19	13	9	NOV	50	25	17	13
DEC	19	9	6	5	DEC	25	13	8	6

For more detailed information, visit the
UC Guide to Healthy Lawns web site at:
http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/TOOLS/TURF
or view these free publications:

http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8044.pdf
http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/7227.pdf

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