

# Statewide Watering Guides

		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 1/4	1 1/2
		<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>										
		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
		<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>										
		Number of Minutes to Water Twice Weekly										
SPRING		49	33	24	19	16	12	9	8	6	4	4
SUMMER		99	66	49	39	33	24	19	16	12	9	8
FALL		41	27	20	16	13	10	8	6	5	4	3
		<b>SOUTHWEST</b>										
		Number of Minutes to Water Twice Weekly										
SPRING		57	38	28	23	19	14	11	9	7	5	4
SUMMER		115	77	57	46	38	28	23	19	14	11	9
FALL		42	28	21	17	14	10	8	7	5	4	3
		<b>CENTRAL AND EASTERN</b>										
		Number of Minutes to Water Twice Weekly										
SPRING		66	44	33	26	22	16	13	11	8	6	5
SUMMER		115	77	57	46	38	28	23	19	14	11	9
FALL		46	30	23	18	15	11	9	7	5	4	3

*Water Conservation -  
Making the most efficient use  
of the state's most precious  
natural resource.*

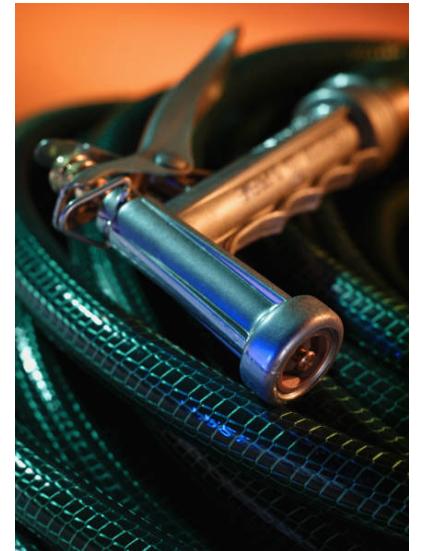
**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
For more information on lawn-watering and  
other water conservation contact:  
  
State of Oregon  
**WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301-1271  
  
Phone: 503-986-0900  
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Website: [www.wrd.state.or.us](http://www.wrd.state.or.us)



# Water Conservation

## How To Produce A Lawn-Watering Guide

### A GUIDE TO WATER CONSERVATION



# Lawn-Watering Guides Are Necessary

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 informing residents about more efficient ways to maintain their lawns and gardens.



Many residential landscapes are over-irrigated by as much as 20 to 40 percent. Often, over-irrigation is due to lack of information about how much water the area actually needs. This information can be provided to customers as an easy-to-use lawn-watering guide.

With the basic information provided in this form, you can easily produce a lawn-watering guide, custom-made for your own distinct climate conditions.

## The Benefits of a Lawn-Watering Guide

- Enhance customer relations
- Promote press coverage
- Ease peak-demand problems in the community
- Save your customers money on their water bills. Customers will spend less time watering the lawn and correct turf disease and other problems associated with over-watering.



## The Lawn-Watering Guide

Evapotranspiration (ET) is the easiest way for your customers to determine if they are over-watering. ET, measured in inches or millimeters, is the amount of water that evaporates from the soil plus the amount of water that transpires through the leaves of a specific plant, in this case grass.

The following instructions will help you use ET information to prepare a lawn-watering guide for your customers.

Keep the instruction guide as simple as possible. If it's too complicated, the homeowner won't use it. The following are sample instructions that can be printed on the 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. Measure the depth of water in each can and determine the average water depth of the five cans.
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.



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

## Additional Water-Saving Tips You May Want to Include

General lawn watering tips you may want to include with the guide:

- Suggest the best watering times.
- Adjust to your guide recommendations gradually to allow the grass root system time to adjust to the change.
- Watch for visual signs of under-watering such as dry spots or wilting.
- If water is flowing off the grass into the gutter, divide the watering time into two blocks to allow the soil to accept the applied water.
- Increase the amount of water over the spring season to reach the summer water needs, and gradually decrease the amount of water in the fall as the winter rains approach.
- Reduce watering times by 20 percent of the time suggested in the guide if you have a Bermuda grass lawn or another type of low water-using grass.
- Water slightly more for small lawns surrounded by concrete or other heat-reflecting urban structures.

NOTE: A supplemental brochure on watering tips is recommended so that the lawn-watering guide will not be too cluttered.



## Distribution of the Material

The material should be distributed in either a low-key, simple, mail-out approach, or in a highly visible, public relations manner.

The low-key approach would be to simply include the lawn watering guide in the customer's billing, along with the supplemental brochure.

The highly visible approach would be to promote the lawn watering guide to a greater extent. Getting local gardening clubs, civic organizations, county cooperative extension offices, schools, and the press involved would increase the effectiveness of the program.

The best time to implement either program is in the spring or summer when the public is thinking about lawn watering.



## Customizing Your Guide

To customize a lawn-watering guide for your area, choose the appropriate data from the statewide watering guides over-leaf. The sample below shows the data for the Willamette Valley.

### Sample

#### WILLAMETTE VALLEY

	Number of Minutes to Water Twice Weekly										
SPRING	49	33	24	19	16	12	9	8	6	4	4
SUMMER	99	66	49	39	33	24	19	16	12	9	8
FALL	41	27	20	16	13	10	8	6	5	4	3