

Appendix A: Lawn Watering Schedule

Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, in conjunction with Utah State University, developed this watering schedule based on historic ET data provided by USU. For more information on lawn and landscape maintenance, including irrigation consult the *SLC BMPs for the Conservation and Protection of Water Resources*, available online at www.slcgov.com/waterconservation.

It is recommended that ½ inch of water be applied to the lawn during each interval. With average water pressure and fixed pop-up heads, this would take approximately 21 minutes. It is best that the water be applied in cycles in order to maximize penetration of water into the soil and to the root zone. For example, set the automatic timer to run for seven minutes, repeated three times, with one hour between each cycle to achieve 21 minutes or ½ inch of water per interval. But keep in mind this schedule is based on averages, and your lawn may require a different cycle time and you may need to water less frequently.

Lawn Watering Schedule	
Month	Interval (1/2 inch of water per interval)
Startup until April 30	Once every 7-14 days as necessary; no watering if there is rain
May	Once every 4 to 7 days
June, July, and August	Once every 3-4 days
September	Once every 7-10 days
October to shutdown	Once every 7 to 14 days as necessary; no watering if there is rain

Watering less frequently and more deeply will save water, money, and time by reducing water consumption, decreasing the need for frequent fertilizer applications, lessening the likelihood of disease, reducing the presence of weeds, and making your lawn stronger and healthier.

It is also recommended that mowing heights be set to 2-1/2 to 3 inches. Longer grass blades mean deeper roots and shaded soil, thus reducing water demand. An added benefit to mowing higher is that weed seeds are less likely to germinate, and that translates to fewer weeds.

Regularly check your irrigation system for misaligned, broken, or missing sprinkler heads. Ideally, systems should be visually inspected after each mowing; but at the least, conduct monthly inspections. Annual irrigation audits can help you in identifying system inefficiencies and fine tuning your irrigation schedule.