

Proper Irrigation
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Do you want healthy turfgrass?

If you said yes, you may need to adjust your irrigation schedule. Irrigation should be done 1 to 2 times every two weeks from November to February and 2 times per week from March to October. During each irrigation event, apply 1/2 to 3/4 inch of water. This amount will give the turfgrass and plants just what it needs.

Over irrigation can stress plants and turfgrass because they are unable to use the excess water. Fungal diseases can occur due to the wet foliage conditions, and root rot can occur. Turfgrass that is watered too often with too little water have shallow roots that are unable to withstand drought conditions. The plants and turfgrass are not the only things that can be negatively affected by over irrigation. The Indian River Lagoon feels the effects, too.

Once the ground becomes saturated with water from over irrigation, water flows off the surface or is washed out of the plant's root zone. This loss contributes to runoff, which is when water picks up and carries pollutants, such as loose soil, fertilizers, and pesticides, to a water body.

The pollutants may then harm our water resources. Extra soil and unwanted sediment may clog fish gills, smother bottom dwelling organisms, and muddy the water, which decreases the amount of light reaching aquatic plants. Excess nutrients from fertilizers cause algal blooms, which also blocks light to aquatic organisms and decreases the amount of dissolved oxygen available to fish. Toxins, such as pesticides and other chemicals, found in the runoff can result in fish kills and poison aquatic plants.

Proper irrigation is an important practice because too much water can be harmful to the landscape and cause problems in our natural water bodies. By properly irrigating, we can keep the landscape and water resources healthy.

Irrigation Tips

By applying these tips, you can help reduce water running off your lawn, conserve water, and keep your grass and plants happy.

- Irrigate 2 times per week (March to October); 1 - 2 times every 2 weeks (November to February).
- Apply 1/2 to 3/4 inch of water during each irrigation event.
- Inspect the irrigation system regularly to check for leaks in hoses, pipes, and fittings.
- Repair broken or clogged spray heads and emitters and adjust them to keep them from watering the pavement.