

Lodi's Lawn and Gardening Watering Guide*

Turfgrass		Turfgrass		Trees, Shrubs, and Groundcovers	Notes	
Warm Season Grasses** and Shrub beds		Cool season grass**				
MONTH	Spray Sprinkler Systems	Rotor Sprinkler System	Spray Sprinkler Systems	Rotor Sprinkler Systems	Drip Systems	
January	Off for season if raining.	Off for season if raining.	Off for season if raining.	Off for season if raining.	System off for rainy season.	Time to inspect your system for leaks and broken heads. Change your timer battery.
February	Off for season if raining.	Off for season if raining.	Off for season if raining.	Off for season if raining.	System off for rainy season.	Plant your water conservation garden now.
March	System off if raining. OR two days a week, 2 cycles of 5-6 minutes.	System off if raining. OR two days a week, 2 cycles of 22 minutes.	System off if raining. OR two days a week, 2 cycles of 6-7 minutes.	System off if raining. OR two days a week, 2 cycles of 25 minutes.	None if raining, otherwise once a week, soak the root zone.	March/April is the most active growth period for turfgrass and other plants. Be sure to water accurately.
April	System off if raining. OR three days a week, 2 cycles of 5 minutes.	System off if raining. OR three days a week, 2 cycles of 20 minutes.	System off if raining. OR three days a week, 2 cycles of 8 minutes.	System off if raining. Or three days a week, 2 cycles of 33 minutes.	Once a week, soak the root zone.	Add 3-4 inches of mulch to existing shrub beds to help conserve water and suppress weeds.
May	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 3-4 minutes.	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 15 minutes.	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 4-5 minutes.	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 18 minutes.	Twice a week, soak the root zone.	Check irrigation system for problems. Avoid run-off.
June	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 3-4 minutes.	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 15 minutes.	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 4-5 minutes.	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 26 minutes.	Three times a week, soak the root zone.	Once a week, check the soil moisture to a depth at least 6" using a screw driver or probe.
July	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 5 minutes.	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 20 minutes.	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 7 minutes.	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 28 minutes.	Three times a week, soak the root zone.	Turf yellowing often indicates over-watering, (i.e. drowning), rarely a fungus. You need to breathe, and so does your lawn.
August	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 4 minutes.	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 16 minutes.	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 5 minutes.	Three days a week, 3 cycles of 20 minutes.	Three times a week, soak the root zone.	During hot weather, monitor plants and turf for stress and leaks.

September ***	Two days a week, 2 cycles of 5-6 minutes.	Two days a week, 2 cycles of 22 minutes.	Two days a week, 2 cycles of 7-8 minutes.	Two days a week, 2 cycles of 29 minutes.	Twice a week, soak the root zone.	It's time to fall back on your watering.
October	Turn system off if it's raining. OR two days a week, 2 cycles of 3-4 minutes.	System off if raining. Or two days a week, 2 cycles of 13 minutes.	System off if raining. OR two days a week, 2 cycles of 4 minutes.	Two days a week, 2 cycles of 15 minutes.	System off if raining. OR two days a week, 2 cycles of 15 minutes.	Prepare for the rainy season. Slow the rain runoff to the streets. Add downspout tube to allow rain to flow over grass.
November	System off if raining. OR one day a week, 1 cycle of 5 minutes.	System off if raining. OR one day a week, 1 cycle of 20 minutes.	System off if raining. OR one day a week, 1 cycle of 4-5 minutes.	System off. OR one day a week, 1 cycle of 18 minutes.	System off if raining. OR once a week, soak the root zone.	Turn off your timer when regular rains begin.
December	System off if raining. OR one day a week, 1 cycle of 3 minutes.	System off if raining. OR one day a week, 1 cycle of 12 minutes.	System off. OR one day a week, 1 cycle of 4 minutes.	System off if raining. OR one day a week, 1 cycle of 14 minutes.	System off if raining. OR once every two weeks, soak the root zone.	Winterize your irrigation system. Turn off the water at the irrigation main; set the timer to "Rain"; turn on each valve to release pressure in the pipe; drain water out of any irrigation components that may freeze.

***The information presented in this document is to meant to provide general guidance for seasonal lawn and landscape watering needs.** Individual irrigation requirements will vary. Runoff and water waste should always be avoided. ** Warm season grass generally goes dormant in winter. Examples: Bermuda, Buffalo, St. Augustine. Cool season grass is generally evergreen. Examples: Fescue, perennial, rye. *** In September, plants' water needs drop by approximately 30% even if the temperature is hotter. The days are shorter, temperatures are lower and evaporation decreases. Plants begin to go into a dormant phase where demand for water is less. The rapid drop in water demand will continue on through October and November. More information about keeping your lawn healthy can be found from UC Cooperative Extension, "Lawn Disease: Prevention and Management", Publication 7497, available at the San Joaquin Copperative Extension office: 209-953-6100, or on-line at : sjmastergardeners.com.