

TODD CREEK VILLAGE

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT



Proud to be your area water provider

It's Irrigation Season—What You Need to Know

If you haven't already, it's time to wake up that irrigation system and we've got some tips from the experts at the CSU Extension Office to help you keep your lawns healthy without over-watering.

Many factors influence recommended lawn watering practices, and no two lawns are exactly alike. A healthy, high-quality bluegrass or ryegrass lawn may need up to 2.25 inches of water per week under hot, dry, windy summer conditions. It may require much less when the weather is cool or cloudy. Turf-type tall fescue may perform well with less water than a bluegrass lawn, if it can grow a deep root system. In many cases, tall fescue requires as much water as bluegrass to look good. If, however, you are looking for a way to decrease the need for watering, you may want to consider Buffalo grass and blue grama lawns because they can remain green for weeks without watering, even during the hottest summer weather.

Shady lawns and areas protected from the wind require less water over the growing season than more exposed turf. However, the roots of mature trees and shrubs also need water. You may have to water more in mature landscapes where the roots of many plants compete for water. It's also worth noting that healthy turf, encouraged by proper mowing, fertilizing and cultivation, uses water more efficiently.

How much should I water? Each time you water the lawn, apply enough water to moisten as much of the root zone as possible. Use a soil probe or shovel to determine what the average rooting depth is in your lawn. If the roots grow down 6 inches deep, water so the soil is moistened to that depth. If the soil is mainly clay, apply 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water to moisten the root zone to a 6-inch depth. A sandy soil can be moistened to 6 inches by as little as 1/2 inch. It is important to know not only how deep the turf roots grow, but also how deep your irrigation water penetrates. Watering too deeply, especially on sandy soils, wastes water and allows it to percolate past the root zone.

When should I water? The most efficient time of day to water is late evening and early morning (10:00 pm to midnight or 8:00 to 9:00 am). It's generally less windy, cooler, and more humid during these times, resulting in less evaporation and more efficient use of water. Water pressure is also generally better and this results in optimal distribution patterns. Contrary to popular belief, watering at night does not encourage disease development.

Did you know...? CSU Extension Office experts will come to your home and do a lawn check for \$50 per visit to evaluate the health of your lawn and provide non-biased/research-based information. Call 303-637-8100 to schedule a lawn check. For additional information about lawn care visit their website at: <https://bit.ly/2GnWBa7>.

TRANSPARENCY NOTICE: Board Meetings are held every 2nd Thursday at 2:00 pm at the Todd Creek Golf Club, 8455 Heritage Dr, Thornton, CO 80602. The public is always welcome.



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