



WATERING MORE COST EFFECTIVELY AND HEALTHY

WHEN AND HOW MUCH

- April 15th is not just Tax Day, it is also a great time to start watering the lawn. Remember the lawn has been asleep for months unable to eat or drink and when it wakes up it needs water to green up. Fertilizer does not green up the lawn in the spring; water, sun and temps wake up the chlorophyll to turn the grass green. We could spray all day but if you are not watering the lawn will not turn green.
- Sprinkler systems will not freeze in April, in fact, most years our systems are only susceptible to freezing in December, January and February. NOTE: Some water lines feeding the sprinkler valve box come out of the house above ground and are susceptible to freezing at any time so I recommend wrapping those lines with foam pipe insulation for less than \$5.
- Lawns need 2" of water per week and we never get that much in April and May so it is necessary to water once a week for 45-60 minutes.
- The deeper you water the deeper the roots will grow in the Spring and the less water you will need in the summer to keep it green. NOTE: Roots only grow in April/May and October, and are shrinking the rest of the time, water is the only thing that stimulates root growth therefore, the deeper you water each time in the Spring, the deeper the roots grow protecting them from the heat closer to the surface in the summer months and the less often you need to water.

If you start watering early in the spring, once a week, for up to an hour per zone you will develop deep roots resulting in less watering needed during the summer. If you don't start watering until sometime in May, you will need to water more often to keep your lawn looking good in the heat because the roots will be closer to the surface.

SETTING SPRINKLERS

- Watering less often but for more time is the healthiest method. To set clocks to water for longer times without excessive run off into the street requires the following: Set each zone for 20 minutes and then set more than one start time so that each day the system comes on it runs all zones for 20 minutes then

comes back around and does it again at least once. EX. 6 zones at 20 minutes per, set start time for 6am and 8am.

- If you started watering in April, you can set your clock for one day per week running at least twice (40 minutes) back to back. One day will probably work until mid-July when you'll need to add in one day. If you don't start watering until May, you will have to water 2 to 3 days per week for 40 minutes each zone to keep the lawn beautifully green through the summer.
- NOTE: One of the biggest things to keep in mind is your landscaping. Do you have burms, or high and low areas? If yes, the higher areas/zones will need to be set for a little longer to keep the "hill" green and the lower zones will need to be set for less time because they will receive run off from the higher zones. People tend to set every zone for the same amount of time and the same interval but that is only appropriate for flat, square lawns.
- WATCH: Watch your system run. If you find standing water after watering this can kill a lawn. If you find you have standing water in the lawn after the sprinklers run you should adjust that zone for less time because standing water gets exponentially hotter and burns the grass as well as choking it from oxygen.
- It is highly recommended that when you turn your system on you run it through and watch each zone to make sure each head is adjusted for maturing landscape that may be interfering with watering and are overlapping to eliminate dry spots when it heats up.

If you follow my watering tips you will probably spend the same amount on water for the season but the difference will be that you spread that money out over 6 months instead of 3 or 4 making your wallet and your lawn happier monthly. I know that 40-60 minutes seems like a long time but if you figure most people water every other day or 7 days every two weeks for 20 minutes per zone, my system saves one day of watering every two weeks.

One final thing to keep in mind is Mother Nature. 2016 we had no moisture from January to May and all the landscaping suffered so we should have been watering at least one day a month in Feb. and March with regular summer watering beginning in April. I use the calendar as a guideline but Mother Nature determines the exact timing.

We will offer "clock setting" for \$25 this spring which will include educating you on how to personalize your system settings for your lawn and landscaping. Hopefully this information helps. We at 4 Seasons are committed to helping our customers have lawns that rival the best but we are only a fraction of what it takes to achieve this and need you, the customer, to mow and especially water appropriately.