



Irrigation Essentials

Practical advice about a technical subject

Irrigation Scheduling Recommendations for August 2009

San Jose, CA, Los Angeles,

Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	4	3	5 min.	60
Rotors/Impact	4	3	13 min.	156

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover

Spray Heads	3	3	5 min.	45
Rotors/Impact	3	3	13 min.	117

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees

Spray Heads	2	3	7 min.	42
Rotors/Impact	2	3	16 min.	96

San Diego/Houston/Colorado Springs/Little Rock

Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	3	3	6 min.	54
Rotors/Impact	3	3	17 min.	153

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover

Spray Heads	3	3	5 min.	45
Rotors/Impact	3	3	12 min.	108

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees

Spray Heads	3	2	6 min.	36
Rotors/Impact	3	2	15 min.	90

Palm Springs, CA

Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	4	3	7 min.	84
Rotors/Impact	4	3	18 min.	216

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover

Spray Heads	3	2	11 min.	66
Rotors/Impact	3	2	28 min.	168

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees					
Spray Heads	3	2	9	min.	54
Rotors/Impact	3	2	23	min.	138

Las Vegas, NV

Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time		Min./Week
Spray Heads	4	3	8	min.	96
Rotors/Impact	4	3	20	min.	240

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover

Spray Heads	3	3	8	min.	72
Rotors/Impact	3	3	20	min.	180

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees

Spray Heads	3	2	10	min.	60
Rotors/Impact	3	2	25	min.	150

Phoenix

Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time		Min./Week
Spray Heads	4	3	7	min.	84
Rotors/Impact	4	3	19	min.	228

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover

Spray Heads	3	3	7	min.	63
Rotors/Impact	3	3	19	min.	171

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees

Spray Heads	3	2	9	min.	54
Rotors/Impact	3	2	22	min.	132

Dallas

Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time		Min./Week
Spray Heads	4	3	6	min.	72
Rotors/Impact	4	3	15	min.	180

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover

Spray Heads	3	3	6	min.	54
Rotors/Impact	3	3	15	min.	135

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees

Spray Heads	3	2	7	min.	42
Rotors/Impact	3	2	19	min.	114

Okalahoma City

Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	4	3	6 min.	72
Rotors/Impact	4	3	14 min.	168

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	3	3	6 min.	54
Rotors/Impact	3	3	14 min.	126

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	3	2	7 min.	42
Rotors/Impact	3	2	17 min.	102

Atlanta/ Nashville /Kissimmee

Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	4	3	5 min.	60
Rotors/Impact	4	3	11 min.	132

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	3	3	4 min.	36
Rotors/Impact	3	3	11 min.	99

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	3	2	5 min.	30
Rotors/Impact	3	2	14 min.	84

Notes & Recommendations

Do not irrigate (turf) on the day you are going to mow the turf. For my example schedule, Saturday is “mow day”.

To illustrate how to select “days on” to promote deeper rooting and for ease of future scheduling additions and deletions, the example schedule is as follows:

Program A

Days On: Monday/Wednesday/Sunday/Friday
Begin Cycle starts early, for example 2:00AM. Set approximately 45 – 60 minutes in between cycle starts – this is a “soak” period.
Cycle start times: 2:00AM, 3:00AM, and 4:00AM

Program B

Days On: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday
Cycle start times: 5:00AM, 6:00AM, and 7:00 AM

Program C

Days On: Monday/Tuesday/Saturday

Cycle start times: 8:00AM, 9:00AM

- 1. *These schedules are a guide – local conditions may vary – it is critical that you monitor your landscape! The best way to do that is with a soil probe.***
2. The example schedule is set up to allow for the simple reduction of “days on” and “cycle starts” to decrease water use after the peak irrigation season of June-July. The minutes in the run times are calculated to mitigate run-off. The hope is to minimize the need to significantly alter the minutes, but decrease amount applied by the deletion of cycle starts/days on.
3. These schedules are for established landscapes only.
4. Add up the minutes in each cycle start and ensure start times on cycle starts do not overlap.
5. Deeper rooting is promoted by consecutive days-on irrigation (Sunday/Monday days on for example), followed by a drying period before the next irrigation. The hope is to create a larger soil moisture reservoir, as defined by the volume of soil the (deeper) roots define. This should help plants endure drought condition or deficit irrigation.