

HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT LAWN IRRIGATION TIPS

THE WOODLANDS JOINT POWERS AGENCY

◆ Set irrigation system timers to complete the cycle *before 4:00 a.m.* This timing will avoid the peak demand for other household uses -- like showers, kitchen chores and the use of laundry appliances.

◆ Voluntarily adopt an 'odd/even' watering schedule -- even house numbers on Sundays and Thursdays, and odd numbers water on Saturdays and Wednesdays. This will also help cut early morning water demand significantly.

◆ When watering, thoroughly wet soils to a depth of 6 inches. ONE inch of water will accomplish a 6-inch moisture level in the soil. (This will vary according to soil mineral type) Shallow watering encourages shallow roots that dry out fast.

◆ Brief watering does not allow water to saturate through the top grass mat layer and reach roots.

◆ Avoid light, daily watering. Deep watering is the best for good root and grass development.

◆ Wait as long as possible between watering to allow the root zone to dry out, which encourages deeper roots and thereby drought tolerance

◆ Know your soils and their water holding capacity. Don't apply water faster than the soil can absorb it. Soils with slow water infiltration (clay, compacted soils) can only take brief watering without runoff occurring.

◆ Sandy soils dry out faster than clay soils.

◆ Fertilize sparingly -- the more fertilizer applied, the more water required.

◆ Use organic, slow-release fertilizers. Organic fertilizers have to be broken down by soil microbes and converted to a form plants can use. Therefore organic fertilizers do not deliver too much nitrogen to the grass at one time-also less

susceptible to leaching into ground water.

◆ High nitrogen, water soluble fertilizers cause abnormal cell growth of grass making it more susceptible to diseases such as brown patch. High N fertilizers leach into ground water.

◆ Watering in the heat of day can waste up to 65 percent of the water through evaporation.



◆ Mow only when necessary. Set the mower to the highest setting during warm weather. Longer grass keeps the soil cool, minimizing evaporation and conserving water.

◆ Leave clippings on the lawn. They supply organic matter and supply 1/3 of your fertilizer needs.

◆ Add 1/4 to 1/2 inch compost to lawn in fall or spring. It will decrease water needs and supply nutrients to the lawn.

◆ Don't water just to be watering. If it has rained an inch in the last few days, don't water.

◆ Add a rain sensor to your automatic sprinkler system....it will save water and money!