



# Irrigation Essentials

Practical advice about a technical subject

## Irrigation Scheduling Recommendations for October 2009

### San Jose, CA., Little Rock

#### Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	3	3	5 min.	45
Rotors/Impact	3	3	13 min.	117

#### Program B

##### Shrubs & Ground/Cover

Spray Heads	2	3	5 min.	30
Rotors/Impact	2	3	13 min.	78

#### Program C

##### Large Shrubs & Trees

Spray Heads	2	2	6 min.	24
Rotors/Impact	2	2	16 min.	64

### Los Angeles, San Diego, Colorado Springs

#### Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	3	3	5 min.	45
Rotors/Impact	3	3	13 min.	117

#### Program B

##### Shrubs & Ground/Cover

Spray Heads	3	3	4 min.	36
Rotors/Impact	3	3	10 min.	90

#### Program C

##### Large Shrubs & Trees

Spray Heads	3	2	5 min.	30
Rotors/Impact	3	2	12 min.	72

### Palm Springs, CA

#### Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	3	3	7 min.	63
Rotors/Impact	3	3	17 min.	153

#### Program B

##### Shrubs & Ground/Cover

Spray Heads	2	2	11 min.	44
Rotors/Impact	2	2	26 min.	104

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees

Spray Heads	2	2	9	min.	36
Rotors/Impact	3	2	16	min.	6

**Las Vegas, NV, Phoenix**

Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	3	3	8 min.	72
Rotors/Impact	3	3	19 min.	171

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover

Spray Heads	2	3	8 min.	48
Rotors/Impact	3	3	14 min.	126

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees

Spray Heads	2	2	10 min.	40
Rotors/Impact	3	2	18 min.	108

**Dallas, Houston, Okalahoma City, Kissimmee**

Program A

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

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover

Spray Heads	2	3	6 min.	36
Rotors/Impact	3	3	11 min.	99

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees

Spray Heads	2	2	7 min.	28
Rotors/Impact	2	2	19 min.	76

**Atlanta/ Nashville**

Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	3	2	6 min.	36
Rotors/Impact	3	2	14 min.	84

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover

Spray Heads	2	3	4 min.	24
Rotors/Impact	2	3	10 min.	60

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees

Spray Heads	2	2	5 min.	20
Rotors/Impact	2	2	13 min.	52

### **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

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 minutes right after peak season, and then “days on” and “cycle starts” as plant water need decreases at a faster rate as fall approaches.*
- 3. The minutes in the run times are calculated to mitigate run-off. Assumptions are made about soil type and including moderate slopes.*
- 4. These schedules are for established landscapes only.*
- 5. Add up the minutes in each cycle start and ensure start times on cycle starts do not overlap.*
- 6. 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 key objective 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.*