



Irrigation Essentials

Practical advice about a technical subject

Irrigation Scheduling Recommendations for September 2009

San Jose, Los Angeles, Houston

Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	4	3	5 min.	60
Rotors/Impact	4	3	12 min.	144

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

San Diego/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	15 min.	135

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover

Spray Heads	3	3	4 min.	36
Rotors/Impact	3	3	11 min.	99

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees

Spray Heads	3	2	5 min.	30
Rotors/Impact	3	2	14 min.	84

Palm Springs, CA

Program A

Turf & Flowers	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Spray Heads	4	3	6 min.	72
Rotors/Impact	4	3	17 min.	204

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover

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

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees

Spray Heads	3	2	8	min.	48
Rotors/Impact	3	2	21	min.	126

Las Vegas, NV

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	24 min.	144

Phoenix

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	3	7 min.	63
Rotors/Impact	3	3	18 min.	162

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees

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

Dallas/ Oklahoma City

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	3	2	6 min.	36
Rotors/Impact	3	2	17 min.	102

Atlanta/ Nashville

Program A

	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Turf & Flowers				
Spray Heads	4	2	8 min.	48
Rotors/Impact	4	2	15 min.	120

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	13 min.	78

Kissimmee

Program A

	Days On	Cycle Starts	Run Time	Min./Week
Turf & Flowers				
Spray Heads	4	2	9 min.	54
Rotors/Impact	4	2	16 min.	128

Program B

Shrubs & Ground/Cover				
Spray Heads	3	3	5 min.	45
Rotors/Impact	3	3	11 min.	99

Program C

Large Shrubs & Trees				
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/ /Friday/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.