



# Watering

Proper watering is the single most important way to keep your lawn green, weed-free and healthy.

## When to water:

The best time is between 6 and 9 am. Avoid night watering whenever possible as it promotes disease activity. If evening watering is the only time you can water, try to water before dark.

## How much to water:

Most lawns need 3/4" to 1" or 15 - 30 minutes of water 3 to 4 days per week. When the weather is hot and dry, your lawn may require more than this amount. Reduce watering in shady areas or poorly drained areas by half. If the grass begins to turn a greyish-blue color, or if the mower is leaving lines, the grass is showing signs of drought stress and you must increase the amount of water. Hand watering localized dry spots and areas missed by your automatic system is often necessary.

## Testing sprinkler coverage:

Sprinklers play the biggest role in proper watering, but several factors may lead to poor performance. To test output and coverage, place four straight-sided cans at varying distances from the sprinkler head, then run the system through a normal cycle. Measure the water in each can. Even a slight difference can be enough to cause a dry spot to develop. Your irrigation system should be checked and adjusted at least twice per year, at spring activation and mid-summer. Call Swingle's Irrigation Department for service.

## Testing soil moisture:

Brown areas can be checked by pushing a screwdriver into the soil. Dry soil will be hard and compacted. Moist soil will be soft. If the soil is dry, hand water dry areas until the lawn starts to recover.

