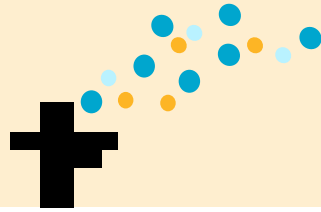


# SPRINKLER CHECKUP PROGRAM



Watering your lawn in efficiently can be difficult in Colorado. One of the most common problems is overwatering. Our clay soils absorb a quarter inch of water in an hour, which is the contributing factor to overwatering and wasting money. For more information, visit [fcgov.com/sprinklers](http://fcgov.com/sprinklers).

## Types of Sprinklers for Hoses

**Spray heads** apply water quickly to one area, typically under 30 feet across.



No more than  
**10 minutes**  
per area

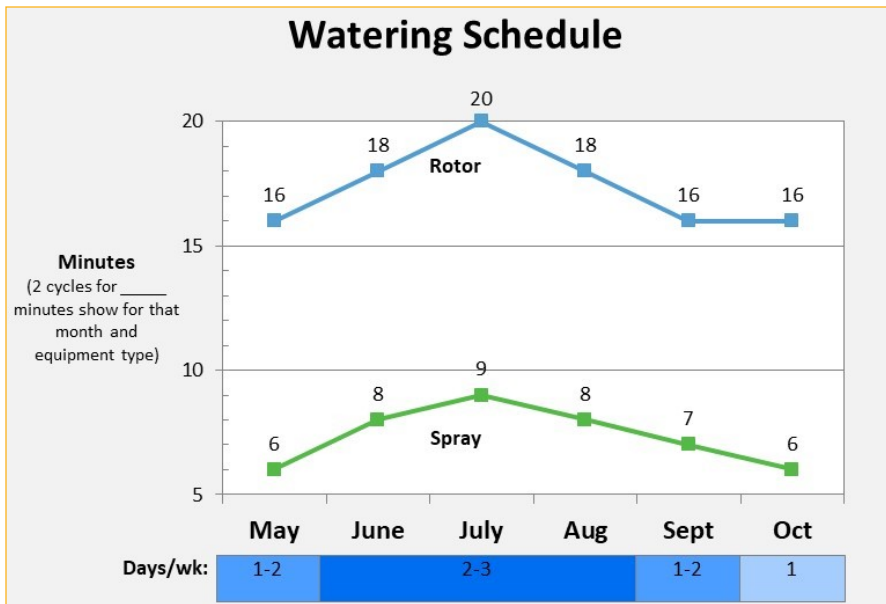
**Rotor Heads** cover larger areas over 30 feet across and apply water slowly to help with absorption.




No more than  
**30 minutes**  
per area

## When to Water

Watering times for the lawn will change throughout the season. If you see footprints when you walk across it, your lawn is getting thirsty. The following schedule and tips will help you get dialed in:



- **Never water more than three days per week!**
- Use **cycle and soak watering** - water, wait for it to soak in, then water again.
- Use a **hose timer** to save money and water. 
- Watch out for **water running off the lawn.**
- Water shady areas **less.**
- For more information, visit our **Daily Lawn Watering Guide** at [fcgov.com/LWG](http://fcgov.com/LWG).

# Every lawn is different

Here are a few factors that affect your landscape and watering schedule:

## Slope

Water obeys gravity. Watering on steep slopes needs to be shorter to reduce run-off, erosion, and pollution.

## Soil

Clay soil is common and can't absorb water quickly. Consider annual aeration to break up the soil compaction.



## Root Depth

Most grass roots are only 3-6" deep. The deeper the root system, the better your grass can survive during dry conditions. Watering less encourages roots to grow deeper, where more water can be accessed by the roots.

## Fertilizers

Excess fertilizer will run off your lawn and affects river health. Please use with care; follow instructions found on the label and only use slow-release types. Don't apply before a rain event.



## System Design and Layout

Without good head-to-head water coverage, the delivery of water is not uniform to all areas. Adjustments to the design or heads may be needed if you have dry patches, otherwise you may be overwatering other areas to keep dry spots green.

## Weeds

Healthy turf is the best defense against weeds. Under and overwatering encourages weeds. In non-turf areas use 3" of mulch to fight weeds.



## Sprinkler Type

Spray sprinklers emit more water per minute than rotor sprinklers. To provide the same amount of water, a rotor sprinkler needs to run longer than a spray sprinkler.

## Sun Exposure

Plants need sun to grow, but sun exposure also increases the water lost to evaporation. Zones with more sun need more water to replenish the plant.



## Disease and Pests

Overwatering will encourage pests and disease (e.g. root rot, fungus). Let the soil (not just the surface!) dry before watering again.

Learn more about water-wise lawn care at [fcgov.com/water-wise-lawncare](http://fcgov.com/water-wise-lawncare).



Working together to improve water efficiency:

