

2-day Rostered WATERING



From 1st September 2022, the sprinkler roster for Perth and Mandurah bore owners is aligned with the scheme water roster of two watering days per week. This is in response to climate change and the need to rebalance our groundwater use with reducing rainfall.

It is crucial to get the right amount of water to the plant as efficiently as possible. Here are a few tips and tricks to help you achieve a healthy Waterwise garden and support a two-day watering roster.

Irrigation System

- Check your irrigation system is working properly.
- Understand how much water is being applied per unit of time. Too much time will waste valuable water, not enough time will kill your plants.
- Check your sprinklers are working properly. This includes not bypassing seals, sprinkler nozzles aren't blocked, and grass is cleared from the sprinkler.
- Be aware how much water is required by each section of your garden and make sure your system does not over-spray or under-spray.
- For more information on how to test your irrigation system visit: watercorporation.com.au/irrigationtest.

Irrigation Controller

Use "smart technology" controllers so your irrigation system automatically adapts to weather conditions in advance. If sufficient rain is forecast, the system can be shut off. If marginal rain or cool conditions are forecast, watering time will be reduced.

Sprinkler Types

- It is important to remember that different sprinkler types DO NOT have the same watering rates to apply a standard drink.
- Lawns and gardens need a minimum of 10mm of water, twice a week to survive the summer heat. The graphic below has been designed to help you identify the correct run time for the sprinklers you have in your garden. Ideal sprinkler run times are also determined by soil type and the water requirements of your plants.

If you need further help, contact your local Waterwise Garden Irrigator. These endorsed waterwise professionals are fully trained in best practice for domestic irrigation systems. Find your local irrigator at watercorporation.com.au/specialists

Know your soil type

Test your soil to understand what type it is. You need to know the pH level, water and nutrient holding capacity and existing minerals. One tablespoon of soil holds more than 20,000 microbial organisms. This includes microscopic fungi and bacteria, nematodes, protozoa and earthworms. If you feed your soil, you will feed your plants.

- **Clay** found in the hills and Wheatbelt
- **Sandy** found along the coastal strip of WA .
- **Loam** found in the hills and inland
- **Duplex** a combination of one layer on top of another eg. sand over clay, loam over sand.

Soil Amendments

- Non-native plants and edible plants will require soil inputs such as compost, manures, bentonite or kaolin clay, rock dust and biochar.

Mulch

- Mulch is like a sunscreen to your soil. Apply 5mm-10mm in depth.
- Choose a chunky coarse mulch, which is better for water saving over soft, fine mulches like straw and lucerne.
- Woody element and large particle size mulch that prevents evaporation and allows moisture to enter the soil.
- Top up mulch every year.


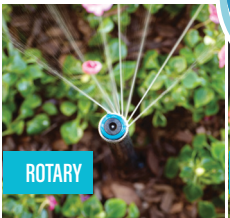

Fertilise

- Choose slow-release fertilisers with added trace elements that are river safe and low in phosphorous. Look at the breakdown on the back of the container to ensure it has extra minerals.
- Always water after applying fertiliser and never fertilise during heatwaves.
- Apply liquid amendments such as liquid fertilisers, seaweed or kelp solutions only during the growth period.

Sprinkler Watering Run Times



It's important to remember that different types of sprinklers have different watering run times. This table can be used as a guide if you need to program your controller.

					
Approximate watering rate (per hour)	15-20mm	35-45mm	35-45mm	10-15mm	10-20mm
Suggested run time to apply 10mm standard drink*	30-40 minutes	13-16 minutes	13-16 minutes	40-60 minutes	30-40 minutes

*These are recommended run times for sandy soils and may need to be adjusted for other soil types like clay or loam.

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Contact your local Waterwise irrigation professional for expert advice | www.waterwiseprograms.com.au

Sample table of analysis of fertiliser content		W/W
Nitrogen – N	Nitrate	0.5%
	Ammonium	6.0%
	Total Nitrogen	6.5%
Phosphorus – P	Water Soluble	0.6%
	Guano	0.4%
	Total Phosphorus	1.0%
Potassium – K	Sulphate	4.2%
	Natural Mineral Ore	0.8%
	Total Potassium	5.0%
Calcium – Ca	Natural Mineral Ore & Carbonate	6.5%
	Sulphate	8.0%
Sulphur – S	Natural Mineral Ore	2.0%
	Total Sulphur	10.0%
Magnesium – Mg	Natural Mineral Ore & Sulphate	2.0%
Iron – Fe	Natural Mineral Ore	3.5%
Silicon – Si	Natural Mineral Ore	9.0%
Manganese – Mn	Total Mineral Ore & Sulphate	5500ppm
Zinc – Zn	Total Mineral Ore & Sulphate	550ppm
Copper – Cu	Total Mineral Ore & Sulphate	500ppm
		+ 49 other trace elements

- Don't mix different types of sprinklers on one watering station
- Always replace like for like when replacing broken sprinklers
- For professional advice, contact your local Waterwise irrigation professional
- Remember to turn off your sprinklers if rain is forecast
- Seasonal adjustments should be made to sprinkler run times outside of Summer months – see table below

Month	Seasonal adjustments
JAN-FEB	100%
MAR	80%
APR	60%
MAY	Manual operation of controller as necessary
JUN-AUG	System turned off (winter sprinkler switch-off)
SEP	Manual operation of controller as necessary
OCT	60%
NOV	80%
DEC	90%

Wetting Agents

- Apply wetting agent granules or liquid to your turf and gardens. This will help water soak through the soil to the roots where it can be used by plants. Our sandy soils in WA are typically hydrophobic. A wetting agent is considered the olive oil of turf as it helps water stick to soil instead of sitting on the surface and not being absorbed.

Understanding your plants

The rate at which plants lose water through transpiration varies with the type of plant and location. If possible, choose low water use plants suited to your conditions and group plants with similar water needs. This will enable you to water various parts of the garden differently. For example, annuals, vegetables, and pot plants may need shorter, more frequent watering by hand.

Hydrozones

- Design your garden according to water and soil needs by clustering the plants together on different irrigation stations. For example, fruit trees and vegetable gardens will require more watering than mature trees or a native garden.

Native Plants

- Not all native plants are drought tolerant. Many come from higher rainfall and lower summer temperatures. To find waterwise plants that will grow best where you live, visit: watercorporation.com.au/plants
- For more waterwise tips and tricks visit watercorporation.com.au/waterwise

Millimetres..... not minutes!

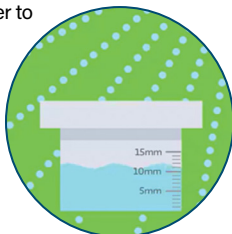
The local weather station reports how much rain has been received **in millimetres, not minutes**. 1mm of water (applied either by rain or irrigation) = 1 litre of water applied evenly to 1m². However, 1mm of water applied to the soil's surface will soak in further than 1mm.

The roots of most plants are located within the top 30cm of the soil. For Perth's generally sandy soils, a 10mm "standard drink" per rostered watering day is sufficient to ensure water is readily available for the plant's roots.

Overwatering may cause excess run-off or water to penetrate below the rootzone and be wasted. Our water is too valuable to waste.

Catch Cups to measure a 10mm Standard Drink

You can measure how long each sprinkler station takes to apply a 10mm standard drink using catch cups. Free catch cups are available from Waterwise Irrigation Design Shops while stocks last. Find your local store by visiting watercorporation.com.au/specialists.



A few things to remember:

- Watering before 9am allows plants to use water throughout the day
- Check and maintain your irrigation system regularly

Turf - choice of variety is important

- Couch, Buffalo, Zoysia, Queensland Blue and Kikuyu turf need lower amounts of water when correctly installed and maintained. They have excellent heat and drought tolerance.
- Cool season grasses are not suitable for our WA climate. They have poor heat tolerance, low to average drought tolerance, and use far more water. Examples of cool season grasses are Ryegrass and Tall Fescue.



Turf Maintenance

- Aerate and verticut your lawn in Spring before the heat of Summer. Removal of thatch, (spongy brown section of grass below the green leaf), by verticutting and aerating compacted lawns will assist in better penetration of water and nutrients.

TIP: Make sure to also dethatch lawns every few years. If the thatch layer becomes thicker than about 2.5mm, it can intercept water and plant nutrients. This will restrict the amount of water to the root zone and can also cause disease.

- Treat your lawn at least four times a year with a reputable, good quality wetting agent and soil moisture retainer. This will improve water holding capacity and eliminate dry patches. The best times to apply are beginning of September and December, late February and in July.

TIP: If your lawn is dying or dead, water alone won't bring it back to life. Water will pool on the surface, flow to the lowest point, and disappear down a drain if this simple maintenance program is not undertaken.

- Fertilise frequently but very lightly. You need a quality, environmentally friendly, slow-release lawn food. Frequent, light application (approx. every two months), keeps your lawn healthy by improving tolerance to limited water application. Also apply a liquid fish emulsion or kelp and humate/carbon-based product around the same time. This will assist your lawn in healing damaged leaf and root fibres and support development of good soil health.

TIP: As a rule, you should apply no more than 2kg of synthetic fertiliser per 100m². An ice cream container is roughly enough for the average front and backyard. Anything more than this is a waste.

- Keep your lawn mower blades sharp. Dull blades damage lawn leaf and increase moisture loss. Never take more than a third of your lawn leaf at one time. Mowing hard and low particularly in summer, will accelerate evaporation from the soil under your lawn. Cutting turf too low inhibits photosynthesis which is not ideal.

TIP: Don't mow too low and keep blades sharp.

- To learn more on installing and caring for a low maintenance lawn, visit watercorporation.com.au/waterwise