

New Landscape Irrigation Schedule

The schedule below should be adjusted for rain/ET (evapotranspiration) and time of year. (<http://texaset.tamu.edu/date.php?stn=3&spread=14> is the website for ET.) For example the ET for January 2010 was 2.81" for the whole month, and the rainfall was 2.67". Not much needed to be watered in January of '10 as rainfall amount nearly equaled ET requirements. If the soil is already saturated, there is nowhere for more water to go except in the street or the aquifer.

Wastewater averaging periods should also be considered from November – February. <http://www.roundrocktexas.gov/home/index.asp?page=140> for more information on wastewater averaging.

Irrigation is the key to successful landscape plantings:

- Planting should be avoided June- September 15th. It just takes too much water to keep the plants alive. Even if there is enough water, the temperature is too hot for rooting to take place.
- Runtimes and frequencies should not be such that there is any runoff. Irrigation should still occur early in the morning to let the plants dry off as soon as possible, especially annuals that might rot or get leaf spot.
- During the winter newly installed plants or sod should be watered only briefly or if ET exceeds rainfall. Plants may wilt from desiccating winds, but the soil may still be wet.
- All plants need to be allowed to go dormant in the winter.
- All trees and shrubs should be mulched with 3" of bark mulch.
- The soil beneath the mulch should be checked for moisture prior to watering. If new plants are not sufficiently mulched, they could freeze and not recover.
- Irrigation schedules should be set on a separate program so that only the new installation is watered on this schedule. Scheduling the entire property to water when only one bed needs it is waste of water and money.

Also remember that the soil in pots is drastically different than our native soils. In general, water will not move from our native clay soils into the root ball. Often newly installed shrubs need to be hand watered right on the root ball, which will dry out easily compared to the soil around it.

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Type of Plant	Exposure	Head Type	Frequency	Run Time	Start Times
Week 1					
<i>Annuals</i>	Sun	Spray	Every day	5 minutes	4:00 AM
				5 minutes	8:00 AM
<i>Shrubs</i>	Sun	Sprays	Every day	10 minutes	4:00 AM
				10 minutes	8:00 AM
<i>Sod</i>	Sun	Spray	Every day	10 minutes	3:00 AM
				10 minutes	5:00 AM
				10 minutes	7:00 PM
	Sun	Rotors	Every day	15 minutes	2:00 AM
				15 minutes	5:00 AM
				15 minutes	7:00 PM
Week 2					
<i>Annuals</i>	Sun	Spray	Every other day	5 minutes	7:00 PM
				5 minutes	5:00 AM
<i>Shrubs</i>	Sun	Spray	Every other day	10-15 minutes	5:00 AM
				10 minutes	7:00 PM
<i>Sod</i>	Sun	Spray	Every other day	10 minutes	6:00 AM
				10 minutes	7:00 PM
	Sun	Rotors	Every other day	15 minutes	6:00 AM
				15 minutes	7:00 PM
Week 3					
<i>Annuals</i>	Sun	Spray	Every 3rd day	5-10 minutes	4:00 AM
				5-10 minutes	8:00 AM
<i>Shrubs</i>	Sun	Sprays	Every 3rd day	10 minutes	4:00 AM
				10 minutes	8:00 AM
<i>Sod</i>	Sun	Spray	Every 3rd day	10 minutes	3:00 AM
				10 minutes	5:00 AM
				10 minutes	7:00 PM
Week 4					
<i>Annuals</i>	Sun	Spray	Every 3-4th day	5-10 minutes	7:00 PM
				5-10 minutes	5:00 AM
<i>Shrubs</i>	Sun	Sprays	Every 5 days	10-15 minutes	1:00 AM
				10-15 minutes	3:00 AM
<i>Sod</i>	Sun	Sprays	Every 5 days	10 minutes	1:00 AM
				10 minutes	3:00 AM
	Sun	Rotors	Every 5 days	15-20 minutes	1:00 AM
					3:00 AM