



SELF AUDIT INSTRUCTIONS

Here are some simple instructions on how to evaluate your in-ground sprinkler system.

1. Make notes of the type of controller you have, how many stations, and the problems you see on each station. If you do not have an instruction manual for your controller, you may order one from the manufacturer or http://www.coastwaterworks.com/irrigation/irrigation_manuals.htm
2. In order to know how much water is being distributed, place several, same size, straight sided cans, such as cat food or tuna cans, throughout the station. In order to figure out the amount of water that is in the can, mark the can on the inside like a rain gauge with markings for $\frac{1}{4}$ " , $\frac{1}{2}$ " , $\frac{3}{4}$ " , and 1" .
3. Turn on your first station on for 15 minutes. This should give you an idea of how much water will be distributed in an hour.
4. Evaluate this station by looking for the following problems:
 - a. Heads that spray onto the sidewalk, driveway, or road
 - b. Heads that are not operating or have reduced water flow
 - c. Heads that may be broken at their base or gushing out the top
 - d. Heads that are no longer straight up and down
 - e. Heads that cause a cloud of mist
 - f. Areas that are receiving very little water
5. Make a note on your notepad as to which zone each station waters and what kind of plant material is being watered by this station, either grass or shrubs.
6. Also make note of what kind of sunlight this station gets: full sun, part sun, or shade.
7. Make note of how long the station was on and how much water is in each can. Add the inches from each can and divide by the number of cans. Multiply by four. This is your average precipitation rate in inches per hour.
8. Repeat these procedures for the rest of the stations.
9. Determine your watering needs:
 - a. St. Augustinegrass requires an average of $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ " every 5 days during the summer in the sun and $\frac{1}{2}$ " or less every 5 days during the summer in the shade.
 - b. Bermudagrass requires $\frac{1}{2}$ " every 5 days.
 - c. Buffalograss requires 1" every 14 to 21 days.
 - d. Common shrubs (Indian Hawthorn, Holly, Yaupon, etc.) require $\frac{1}{2}$ " every 5 days or 1" every 10 –15 days.
 - e. Common ground covers (Asian Jasmine, English Ivy, etc.) require $\frac{1}{3}$ " every 5 days or $\frac{2}{3}$ " every 10 days.
10. Schedule your controller according to how much water was collected in the cans in the measured time and how much time it would take to water the plants the necessary amount.
11. Remember to change your schedule according to the change in seasons:
 - a. Spring-20-50% less than the average summer schedule
 - b. Fall-30% less than the average summer schedule
 - c. Winter-turn off the controller during wastewater averaging November 1 – March 1 except to run your system a few minutes to keep it operational.
12. If you can't do the repairs yourself, remember to have any repairs made by a licensed irrigator.

