Kings Row Lawn Watering Tips

More than 50 percent of an average American household’s annual water consumption is due to outside watering. Auditing your sprinkler system, and fine-tuning its performance, can help save our drinking water. Thoroughly check your system each spring when you first turn it on. After each mowing, check to make sure sprinkler heads haven’t been broken or knocked out of alignment.

We live in a semi-arid region and rely on well water for our potable water needs.  As a water provider Kings Row HOA is bound by Basalt Water Conservancy decree that only allows potable water to be used for irrigating no more than 2,000 square feet.  When our non-potable irrigation water is not available we are each limited to water 2,000 square feet of lawn and at most every other day.

When there is water available from the non-potable irrigation system Kings Row HOA lots owners are not allowed to use potable water for irrigation, this is to conserve our precious drinking water.  We are allowed to water as much square footage as you want only when using the non-potable irrigation water.

Watering daily promotes shallow root growth and increases the incidents of fungal infections, shallow root growth in turn makes grass and plants susceptible to the heat of summer.  Watering your lawn as little as possible in spring and fall will prepare it to handle the harsh growing conditions of our summers.  It may feel like we are helping our lawns by watering every day when irrigation water is available.  This will just set your landscape up for extreme shock when irrigation water is no longer available, and your landscape is forced to go on a water diet for the hottest part of the summer, July and August.

Replacing your sprinkler clock with a ‘smart clock’ that accounts for geographic location, plant type, soil, slope, amount of sun, weather and evaporation rate can reduce water usage and promote healthier plants.  These clocks will constantly adjust the water times based on need and will automatically stop watering if adequate rainfall is available.  Many can even be programed through a wifi connection to your phone, tablet or computer.

Use this chart as a starting point to determine the number of minutes to water each zone on the days you water. These times are averages. Adjust your watering minutes based on rainfall, type of grass or plants, sunny or shady locations and other characteristics.

Watering 2 days a week in spring/fall and three days a week in summer should be sufficient. If needed, water a fourth day during extreme heat or dry periods. Water trees and shrubs as needed, but best not between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. as a high percentage of the of water will be lost to evaporation before it soaks in.  Shrubs and perennials need half as much water as lawns.

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| **Watering Months** | **Minutes to water per zone (for lawns, based on three days per week\*)** | | | |
| **Fixed spray heads** | **Rotor heads** | **Rotary/high-efficiency nozzles†** | **Manual sprinklers** |
|  | If your sprinklers are connected to potable water, you are required to have a backflow preventer. | | | |
| May | 15 | 24 | 30 | 17 |
| June | 20 | 40 | 43 | 25 |
| July | 20 | 45 | 50 | 27 |
| August | 20 | 45 | 50 | 27 |
| September | 15 | 24 | 30 | 17 |
| October | Winterize sprinklers before 1st hard freeze and  be sure backflow is tested before end of season. | | | |

**Two good resources for landscape watering info:**

**<http://www.basalt.net/180/Outdoor-Water-Conservation>**

<http://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/watering-established-lawns-7-199/>

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