



## Suggested Weekly Irrigation Schedule

**IMPORTANT NOTE! Due to the exceptional drought affecting California, EMWD is currently under Stage 2 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan. Please stay within your water budget and eliminate water waste. For more information, please visit [www.emwd.org/drought](http://www.emwd.org/drought).**

The following chart is a suggested weekly watering schedule for typical **spray-head irrigation\***, assuming **heavy clay soils** common to most of the Inland valleys of Riverside County, during normal conditions. These are general times and will vary depending on the application rate and efficiency of your irrigation system. Start with the lowest recommendation and increase the time only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the time. **Reminder: EMWD's permanent water use efficiency requirements stipulate that you irrigate landscape only between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.** Please visit [www.emwd.org](http://www.emwd.org) to review all requirements.

Month	Cool Season Grass	Moderate Use Trees, Shrubs & Groundcover	% Option**	Notes
January	2 days, 2 cycles*** of 4 minutes	1-2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	25%	Turn water off before it rains and let soil dry before turning water on again. Better yet, get a rain sensor!
February	2-3 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	1-2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	40%	
March	3 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	50%	March/April/May is the most active growth period for most plants. Fertilize plants with a balanced fertilizer like: 15-15-15 or 7-7-7.
April	4 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	3 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	55%	Mulch! Save hundreds of gallons a year by using mulch around plants to reduce evaporation. Cuts down on weeds too!
May	5 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	3-4 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	75%	
June	6 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	4-5 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	90%	June is a good time to fertilize your lawn, patch or re-seed if necessary. Better yet, reduce or remove your grass!
July	6 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	4-5 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	100%	Check irrigation systems to make sure that it is working correctly. Add a new layer of mulch or organic matter such as ground bark to keep down weeds and help hold in moisture.
August	6 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	4-5 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	95%	
September	4-5 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	3 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	80%	Fall is a great time to plant Water Saving Garden Friendly plants. For more info log onto the following link: <a href="http://www.watersavinggardenfriendly.com">www.watersavinggardenfriendly.com</a>
October	3-4 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	2-3 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	50%	Most plants go dormant beginning in October, which means the water requirements drop by 50%. Also, the days are shorter which means there is less evaporation. Be sure to adjust irrigation times down even if the daytime temperatures remain warm.
November	2-3 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	1-2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	35%	
December	2-3 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	1-2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	25%	

**You can create a more customized schedule by visiting the following link:**

<http://www.bewaterwise.com/calculator.html#pagestart>

\* Scheduled based on spray-head irrigation with an application rate of 1.0 inches per hour.

\*\* The % option on your irrigation controller, either a button or a dial, may be referred to as seasonal adjust or water budget, permits the watering run times for all electric valves managed by the controller to be increased or decreased with just one adjustment by percentage. If this method is used the controller must be programmed to the July settings.

\*\*\* By "cycling" the irrigation controller to turn on for the recommended number of minutes an hour apart, deeper watering and healthier root growth are gained, while runoff is reduced.