



Standard Time is Here

Yesterday, Daylight Savings Time ended, and we set our clocks backwards one hour. Be sure that you also reset the time on your irrigation controller!

Shorter Days Lead to Less Water Demand

Experienced gardeners know that as the days shorten, our landscape's water demand is greatly reduced. So, when changing the time on your irrigation controller, be sure to reduce the amount you water too. In our coastal region, you should water no more than two days each week, and reduce your peak June weekly watering duration by 37 percent for September, 44 percent for October, and 66 percent for November. Seasonal rains that occur from December through March can often provide all of the water out landscape plants require in those months.

Save Water By Semi-Automatic or Manual Watering

If you use an automatic sprinkler system, practice watering "only as needed" by using the semi-automatic or manual start feature on your irrigation controller. To eliminate unnecessary watering automatically, install a soil-moisture shut-off switch to your existing controller.

This is also a great time to consider some important irrigation strategies.

- Water your lawns early, before sunrise or after sunset.
- Water your lawn only when needed. Most plants do not need to be watered every day & excess watering not only wastes water, but can harm plants.
- Make sure your sprinklers are leak-proof and not aimed on sidewalks, streets or driveways.
- Use a trigger or automatic shut-off nozzle on your hose.
- Shut off your sprinklers after a rain.
- Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses to water trees, shrubs, and flower beds.

[SEE MORE TIPS](#)



Contact our conservation staff at (831) 384-6131 or conservation@mcwd.org to learn more about incentives and assistance available to help you upgrade your existing irrigation system and reduce landscape water use.

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