

WaterWise Landscape Irrigation

Common Irrigation Problems and Easy Fixes



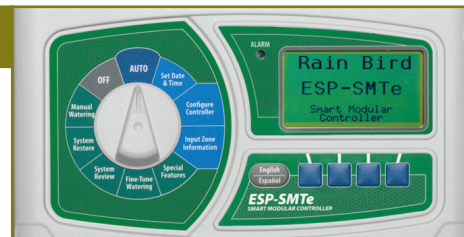
UTILITY DEPARTMENT

WATER CONSERVATION

Irrigation systems require regular maintenance to stay efficient. Tilted or broken sprinklers, excessive system pressure, overspray and runoff all contribute to water waste when left unchecked. Do your part and conduct regular inspections of your irrigation system. *“Water isn’t all you’ll save!”*

IRRIGATION SCHEDULING

Watering early in the morning or early evening can reduce water loss from evaporation, wind and runoff. Make changes seasonally using the seasonal % adjust or water budget % feature on your controller. Change the irrigation schedule by one minute and save 15-25 gallons per minute.



LEAKS / BREAKS

All leaks should be fixed as soon as possible. Look for signs such as consistently wet / saturated areas or soil erosion. Most small leaks can easily be fixed without specialized training or tools, some mainline leaks might require a professional. Fixing leaks can save 10 gallons per minute per leak.



RUNOFF / OVERSPRAY

Bend City code prohibits water from spraying or running off one property onto hardscape or an adjacent property. Install nozzles with the proper radius for the planter area. Adjust sprinklers for proper alignment and save 15-20 gallons every time you irrigate.



MISMATCHED SPRINKLERS

Each sprinkler type has its own rate of application, usually given in gallons per minute (gpm) or Inches per hour (in/hr). Mixing sprinkler types on a single zone results in uneven application of water to the landscape and increased runtimes.



TILTED / BLOCKED SPRINKLERS

As plant material matures in the landscape sprinkler spray patterns can become obstructed. Sprinkler heads can become tilted from impact by maintenance equipment or soil compaction. Both of these issues interfere with the even application of water creating dry spots in the landscape.



WATER PRESSURE

Excessive pressure causes water to atomize out of the sprinkler head, sprinkler radiuses shorten and flows increase. Make sure pressure is within an acceptable range of what the manufacturer recommends, usually between 35-60 psi. Install pressure regulators on mainlines or valves as necessary and always install when using drip irrigation which only requires 20 psi.



MONTHLY MAINTENANCE CAN KEEP YOUR YARD WATERWISE

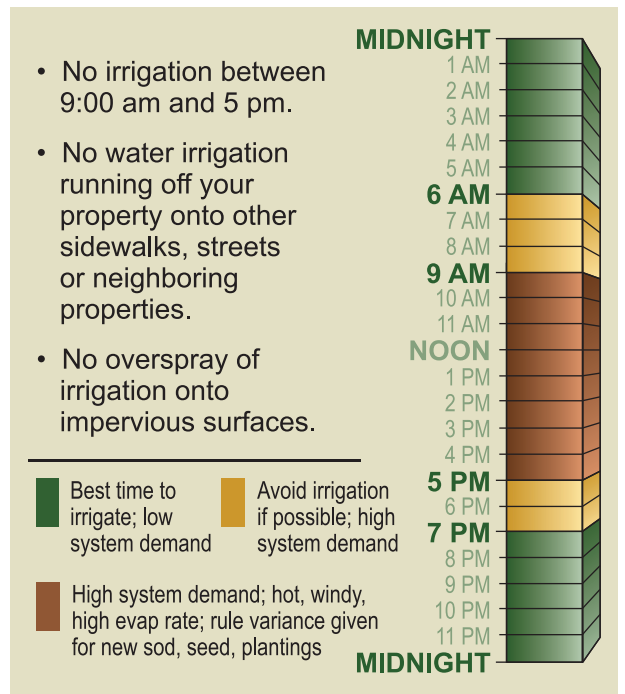
- Visually inspect the irrigation system for any issues or leaks
- Make sure irrigation schedule is adjusted at least quarterly throughout the irrigation season
- Adjust sprinkler heads as needed to keep water away from the street and sidewalks
- When applying fertilizer, do not apply before forecasted rain event as heavy rains can wash fertilizer from the landscape into the street and rivers
- Avoid washing driveways, sidewalks or other impervious surfaces where water could travel from your property to adjoining properties, gutters or storm drains
- Invest in water saving technology such as smart irrigation controllers, rain and soil moisture sensors and high efficiency sprinkler heads.



IRRIGATION HOURS FOR BEND WATER CUSTOMERS

Even and odd irrigation day rules apply.

- Best time to Irrigate- 7pm - 6am (low system demand)
- Avoid Irrigation if possible 6am - 9am (peak morning demand)
- No Irrigation allowed 9am - 5pm (high rate of evaporation - rule variance given for establishing new plantings)
- Avoid Irrigation if possible 5pm - 7pm (peak evening demand)



For more ways to save water check us out at

WATERWISETIPS
"Water isn't all you save." **.org**

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Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities
 To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic format and audio cassette tape please contact Karin Morris at 541-693-2141 or email kmorris@bendoregon.gov.