

How to Use this Guide

Not sure how often you need to water your yard? Use the **Livermore Lawn & Landscaping Watering Guide** to help create your watering schedule.

First, find the sprinkler or drip system type that is the most similar to your irrigation system. Then use the suggested watering schedule as a starting point and adjust as needed.

The average California home uses more than half of its water on outdoor landscaping, so small adjustments to your irrigation schedule can lead to big water savings!

Watering Adjustments

New Plants

Deep, infrequent watering makes plants healthier and better able to withstand the summer heat. However, new plantings may need more frequent watering than what is listed in this guide.

Hand water any new plants that are added to your existing garden to ensure they get enough water during their establishment period.

Repeat Cycles

Livermore's clay soil cannot absorb water as fast as some irrigation systems apply it. To prevent runoff, irrigation controllers should be set to water in multiple short cycles instead of one long cycle. This will allow the water to fully soak into the soil and encourage deeper root growth.

This guide assumes your plants are on flat ground, so you may need to break up watering time into additional shorter cycles if you are watering on a slope.

Sun vs. Shade

Plants growing in shady areas usually require 50% less water than the same plants in full sun. This guide is for plants in full sun, so reduce your watering times to account for shade if necessary.

Additional Ways to Save Water

When to Water

The best time to water your yard is between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. when the sun is down and temperatures are cooler.

Upgrade your Irrigation Controller

Upgrade your irrigation controller to a weather-based "smart" model. These controllers use local weather reports to automatically adjust your home's watering schedule. Rebates are available to help cover the cost of upgrading. Learn more at LivermoreCA.gov/Rebates.

Add Mulch

Add a 2-3 inch layer of mulch to all planted areas. This will improve plant health, reduce water loss, improve soil quality, and keep soil temperatures cooler.

Irrigation System Checks

Inspect your sprinklers or drip system while they are running a few times each year. Look for sprinklers that are broken, bent, or misaligned. Look for any holes or breaks in the drip system.

Lawn Care

Remember to aerate lawns once a year. This will reduce soil compaction and improve lawn health. Additionally, mow lawns to a 2.5-3 inch height. This will improve the quality of the lawn and reduce its water needs.

Or better yet, lose your lawn! Livermore Municipal Water is offering a rebate to convert your lawn and sprinkler system into a low-water garden with drip irrigation. Learn more at LivermoreCA.gov/Rebates.

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