



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension



Western Regional  
Climate Center

# Washoe Evapotranspiration Project

## Our goal:

To provide a convenient, Web-based tool to help set irrigation timers so that only the necessary amount of water is applied to the landscape, with zero waste or runoff.

## So, what is Evapotranspiration (ET)?



ET science estimates how much moisture plants and soil lose on a daily basis by measuring current weather conditions. This method estimates the amount of water needed to replace what has been used by the landscape.

Water conservation is a vital part of an integrated water resource plan. Saving water reduces utility bills, postpones the need for future water treatment facilities, provides drought protection for our community, and reduces the rate at

which new water resources are needed. The region has a limited supply of water resources, and they should be used as efficiently as possible.

Your irrigation system is the key to creating a healthy, water-efficient landscape. Some lawns require more or less water, depending upon the type of grass you have.

Adding or removing one minute from the watering time can change the amount of water you use by **25 percent**.

## When can I water?

<b>Monday</b>	<b>No Watering</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Even Addresses</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Odd Addresses</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Even Addresses</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Odd Addresses</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Even Addresses</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Odd Addresses</b>

*Do not water between  
11 a.m and 7 p.m. from  
Memorial Day to Labor Day.  
See [www.tmwa.com](http://www.tmwa.com) for details.*

## How Do I Decide How Much Water to Apply?

It's simple. First, identify the type of sprinkler heads you have. As the name sounds, pop-up sprinklers elevate out of the ground when the sprinklers turn on. Impulse sprinklers deliver water in a spray that moves in a circular pattern around the head, making a clicking sound. Spray-stream rotors shoot a jet of water, and the stream moves back and forth across the area to be watered. Go to [www.washoet.dri.edu](http://www.washoet.dri.edu) and click on the "Sprinkler Info" button for more help identifying your sprinkler heads. On your next watering day (or the night before), go to [www.washoet.dri.edu](http://www.washoet.dri.edu) and look at the graphic. It will tell you the total run time, by type of sprinkler head, that will apply enough water (on average) to replace what's been used by your lawn since the last watering day. Set your system to apply that amount of water in three or more cycles. The rest time between cycles lets the water soak into the ground, rather than running off. Each lawn is different, so you'll need to monitor your lawn to determine whether this average amount is adequate for your lawn.



Split up the watering times into  
three to five cycles or more per day.

Irrigation rates based on manufacturers information,  
local weather stations and sprinklers operating  
at 85% efficiency.

## A few tips to save water:

- ◆ Use the Washoe ET website to learn to apply only the amount of water needed while following the three-day-a-week watering schedule.
- ◆ Check for leaks in your irrigation system and fix them promptly.
- ◆ Look for water runoff and adjust watering times to allow water to soak in.
- ◆ Use a broom to clean surfaces, instead of a hose.
- ◆ Check your water bill. If it seems unusually high. You might have a leak.

## Drip Watering Tips and Information

Because plants have different watering needs than grass, your irrigation clock should allow different settings for drip and sprinkler stations. Determine the amount of time to water based on the rate of flow of your drip emitters, the types of plants you are watering and the condition of the soil.

**Washoe ET Website:**

<http://www.washoet.dri.edu/>

## For more information call:

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