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IRRIGATION GUIDELINES

PREPARED FOR SHADOW CREEK

BY DR. R. E. MOON + ASSOCIATES

WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING

Landscaping is an integral part of the community plan. Plants from the Approved Plant List are water-efficient, well-adapted, native Texas species suited to South Texas conditions. Planting techniques—such as soil preparation, drip and spray irrigation, and mulching—are designed to maximize growth while minimizing irrigation. Reducing water use is a vital element in the overall planning, design, and strategy for this community.

WATER AND OXYGEN

Plants need both water and oxygen in the root zone to survive. Adequate watering should be balanced with time for the soil to breathe to help prevent waterlogging. In Texas, more plants die from overwatering than from drought.

WATERING NEEDS

A plant's water needs depend on sun exposure, shade, temperature, humidity, wind, soil, and rainfall. Check for stress—such as wilting or yellowing leaves—or test soil moisture by probing 2–4 inches deep with your fingers.

OPTIMUM WATER USE

Water in the early morning to reduce evaporation and prevent disease. Avoid watering between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Use multiple short run times to prevent runoff, and water deeply but infrequently to promote deep roots. Well-rooted plants store and use water more efficiently, improving drought and heat tolerance.

WATERING NEW LANDSCAPES

- Water thoroughly after planting.
- Mulch new plantings to reduce evaporation around root balls.
- For the first four weeks, water every other day, keeping soil moist 6–12 inches deep throughout the root zone. Run times will vary by sun, shade, and location.
- After four weeks, reduce watering to two times per week. Transition to established landscape watering as soon as possible.

WATERING ESTABLISHED LANDSCAPES

- Water use depends on climate and soil moisture.
- Replenish mulch annually to reduce evaporation and water use around root systems and planting beds.
- Water so soil remains moist 6–12 inches deep for better drought and heat resilience.
- Check irrigation settings and soil moisture year-round, adjusting as needed.
- Refer to the following chart for monthly controller settings and run times.

MONTHLY IRRIGATION CONTROLLER SETTINGS

The irrigation system will be turned OFF from October through May. The following run times apply only during drought periods within these months.

These suggested settings are general guidelines and may need adjustment based on specific landscape conditions, soil types, rainfall, and climate. Run times can be split into multiple cycles to minimize runoff.

Month	Run Times	Controller Setting
January	<i>Spray Heads: 12 – 20 minutes Rotor Heads: 30 – 45 minutes Bubbler Heads: 5 – 10 minutes Drip: 30 – 45 minutes</i>	Set to run once every 2 weeks
February	<i>Spray Heads: 12 – 20 minutes Rotor Heads: 30 – 45 minutes Bubbler Heads: 5 – 10 minutes Drip: 30 – 45 minutes</i>	Set to run once every 2 weeks
March	<i>Spray Heads: 12 – 20 minutes Rotor Heads: 30 – 45 minutes Bubbler Heads: 5 – 10 minutes Drip: 30 – 45 minutes</i>	Set to run once every 7 – 10 days
April	<i>Spray Heads: 12 – 20 minutes Rotor Heads: 30 – 45 minutes Bubbler Heads: 5 – 10 minutes Drip: 30 – 45 minutes</i>	Set to run once every 7 – 10 days
May	<i>Spray Heads: 12 – 20 minutes Rotor Heads: 30 – 45 minutes Bubbler Heads: 5 – 10 minutes Drip: 30 – 45 minutes</i>	Set to run 1 – 2 times per week
June	<i>Spray Heads: 12 – 20 minutes Rotor Heads: 30 – 45 minutes Bubbler Heads: 5 – 10 minutes Drip: 30 – 45 minutes</i>	Set to run 2 times per week
July	<i>Spray Heads: 12 – 20 minutes Rotor Heads: 30 – 45 minutes Bubbler Heads: 5 – 10 minutes Drip: 30 – 45 minutes</i>	Set to run 2 times per week
August	<i>Spray Heads: 12 – 20 minutes Rotor Heads: 30 – 45 minutes Bubbler Heads: 5 – 10 minutes Drip: 30 – 45 minutes</i>	Set to run 2 times per week
September	<i>Spray Heads: 12 – 20 minutes Rotor Heads: 30 – 45 minutes Bubbler Heads: 5 – 10 minutes Drip: 30 – 45 minutes</i>	Set to run 1 – 2 times per week
October	<i>Spray Heads: 12 – 20 minutes Rotor Heads: 30 – 45 minutes Bubbler Heads: 5 – 10 minutes Drip: 30 – 45 minutes</i>	Set to run 1 – 2 times per week
November	<i>Spray Heads: 12 – 20 minutes Rotor Heads: 30 – 45 minutes Bubbler Heads: 5 – 10 minutes Drip: 30 – 45 minutes</i>	Set to run 1 – 2 times per week
December	<i>Spray Heads: 12 – 20 minutes Rotor Heads: 30 – 45 minutes Bubbler Heads: 5 – 10 minutes Drip: 30 – 45 minutes</i>	Set to run once every 2 weeks

Note: These guidelines are a starting point. Regularly check soil moisture and adjust irrigation for wet or dry areas. Water restrictions and natural rainfall will affect these guidelines.