

## Scheduling Irrigation in Drip Zones

### What is drip irrigation?



While most lawns are irrigated with sprinklers, trees, shrubs, perennials, and vegetable gardens are often irrigated with drip irrigation. This form of irrigation is highly efficient and directly targets the roots of the vegetation, rather than spraying the foliage. Water reaches the plant via tubing and is delivered by an emitter in the form of a slow drip.

### Tips for maintaining efficient drip irrigation zones:

- Different plant species have different watering needs - make sure to group plants with similar watering needs together on a single irrigation zone.
- Even drought tolerant plant species require regular watering during their first 2-3 years. After establishment, many of these species require little to no regular irrigation.
- Unlike your lawn, many landscape plants prefer deep and infrequent watering, just 1-2 times per week.
- When selecting or replacing dripline emitters, select ones with flow rates measured in gallons per hour (GPH) instead of gallons per minute (GPM) to prevent runoff and water waste on your landscape.
- If a plant dies or needs to be relocated on your property, be sure to install a 'goof plug' at its location on the dripline, unless you intend to replace the plant.
- Keep your dripline buried beneath a 2-3" depth of organic mulch. This protects the dripline from sun damage and retains soil moisture for your landscape.
- Place drip zones on a separate irrigation program from your overhead spray zones. That way, you can water your drip zones less frequently than your sprinkler zones.

### Example Drip Zone Watering Schedule for Peak Season Conditions:

Plant Type	Water Smart Shrubs and Perennials	Moderate Water Use Shrubs and Perennials	Food Gardens
Minutes of run time	25	20	8
Total watering days per week	1	2	7
Total weekly run time	25	40	56

**Please Note:** Drip scheduling recommendations were generated assuming 1 GPH in-line drip emitters spaced 12"-18" apart and should be considered as guidelines ONLY. If you are unsure how your watering schedule is impacting the health of your plants, it is recommended that you consult with a professional for more customized watering guidance that caters to the unique needs of your landscape.