



The Plant Professionals

Good Water Practice For Established Trees, Shrubs & Lawns

Clay soil is slow to soak up irrigation water, therefore we are great believers in Texas A&M's Cycle-Soak watering method. If you have an automatic irrigation system, water spray head stations 5 to 8 minutes only, but 3 start times, at least one hour apart, on the same morning. For rotor head stations, water 10 to 15 minutes, repeated 2 more times. Start early, any time after midnight, so you can finish by 7a.m. Then let the lawn go for as long as possible before watering again, 7 to 14 days. This will train grass roots to go deep, giving your lawn the best drought tolerance possible and discouraging fungus problems. Most trees and shrubs will remain healthy with somewhat less watering frequency, but still at least every two weeks.

If you don't have an automatic inground system, you can achieve the same results by attaching a battery powered timer to the faucet and 2 or 3 impulse (impact) sprinklers, and setting the timer to 10 to 15 minutes with 3 start times an hour apart. Then just move your sprinklers every evening to a new location and adjust their pattern, to cover all parts of the yard.

Every system applies water at a different rate; to see if your cumulative watering time is long enough, try pushing a screwdriver into the soil, if you can push it in 6" without too much effort, you have applied enough water. If you only penetrate 2 or 3 inches before hitting hard dry soil, you may need to add additional start times.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Gill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

March 29, 2013