

Month	Spray Systems	Drip Systems	Notes
January	System turned off if raining, Once every 2 weeks, 3 to 5 minutes, 1 start time	System turned off	Turn water off before rains and let soil dry before turning water on again
February	System turned off if raining, Once a week, 3 to 5 minutes, 1 start time	None if raining Once (1 time) every two weeks, Soak the root zone	It's time to inspect and do irrigation system maintenance.
March	System turned off if raining, Twice a week, 3 to 5 minutes, 1 to 2 start times	Weekly-once (1 time) a week Soak the root zone None if raining	March/April is the most active growth period for turf grass and other plants. Be sure to water adequately.
April	System turned off if raining, Twice a week, 3 to 5 minutes, 2 to 3 start times	Twice (2 times) a week Soak the root zone	It's time for fresh mulch.
May	Two to three times a week, 3 to 5 minutes, 2 start times	Two (2) to three (3) times a week, Soak the root zone	Is your irrigation system watering what's it's supposed to?
June	Three to four times a week, 3 to 5 minutes, 2 to 3 start times	Three (3) to four (4) times a week, Soak the root zone	Once a week check for soil moisture using a screw driver or soil probe.
July	Four to five times a week, 3 to 5 minutes, 2 to 3 start times	Three (3) to four (4) times a week, Soak the root zone	A once a week stroll through a garden can help identify plants in stress and irrigation system parts that aren't working properly.
August	Four to five times a week, 3 to 5 minutes, 2 to 3 start times	Three (3) to four (4) times a week, Soak the root zone	Dog Days of Summer
September**	Three to four times a week, 3 to 5 minutes, 2 to 3 start times	Three (3) times a week Soak the root zone	It's time to fall back on watering.
October**	Twice a week, 3 to 5 minutes, 1 to 2 start times, System turned off if raining	Twice (2 times) a week Soak the root zone None if raining	Time to winter mulch.
November**	System turned off if raining, Once a week, 3 to 5 minutes, 1 start time	None if raining Once (1 time) every two weeks, Soak the root zone	It's time to winterize your irrigation system.
December	System turned off if raining, Once every 2 weeks, 3 to 5 minutes, 1 start time	System turned off	Winter has arrived and irrigating should be greatly reduced.

\*By "cycling" your irrigation timer to turn on for the suggested number of minutes an hour apart, you reduce runoff and gain deeper watering and healthier root growth. Start with this weekly schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the time.

\*\*In September, plants water needs drop by approximately 30 percent even if the temperature is hotter, for two reasons. First, the days are shorter, so evaporation decreases. Second, plants begin to go into a dormant phase where they need less water. In some years, humidity may be higher, increasing your level of discomfort, but decreasing plant water needs as it slows the rate of evaporation. This rapid drop in water needs will continue in October and November.

\*\*\*Some irrigation controllers have a feature by which the watering time can be set by changing the percentage instead of specifically entering the days, cycles and minutes.

CAUTION: Irrigation suggestions and tips are based on average regional conditions and care should be taken to adapt them to actual weather and landscape conditions. (For additional information, contact El Dorado Irrigation District, 530-642-4071.)