

To measure sprinkler precipitation rate:

1. Set out 6 identical cans between sprinkler heads in the same sprinkler zone.
2. Run the sprinklers for 10 minutes.
3. Pour all of the water into one can.
4. Measure and record the depth.
5. Repeat for each sprinkler zone.

This is your sprinkler precipitation rate in inches per hour.

Zone 1 = _____in/hr

Zone 2 = _____in/hr

Zone 3 = _____in/hr

Zone 4 = _____in/hr

Zone 5 = _____in/hr

Zone 6 = _____in/hr

Zone 7 = _____in/hr

Zone 8 = _____in/hr

Zone 9 = _____in/hr

Zone 10 = _____in/hr

Zone 11 = _____in/hr

Zone 12 = _____in/hr

Sprinkler runtime table

		inches of water needed (in hundreds)													
		0.20	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.40	1.50
sprinkler precipitation rate (in inches per hour)	1/4	48	72	96	120	144	168	192	216	240	264	288	312	336	360
	3/8	32	48	64	80	96	112	128	144	160	176	192	208	224	240
	1/2	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144	156	168	180
	5/8	19	29	38	48	58	67	77	86	96	106	115	125	134	144
	3/4	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96	104	112	120
	7/8	14	21	27	34	41	48	55	62	69	75	82	89	96	103
	1	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90
	1-1/8	11	16	21	27	32	37	43	48	53	59	64	69	75	80
	1-1/4	10	14	19	24	29	34	38	43	48	53	58	62	67	72
	1-3/8	9	13	17	22	26	31	35	39	44	48	52	57	61	65
	1-1/2	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60
	1-5/8	7	11	15	18	22	26	30	33	37	41	44	48	52	55
	1-3/4	7	10	14	17	21	24	27	31	34	38	41	45	48	51
	1-7/8	6	10	13	16	19	22	26	29	32	35	38	42	45	48
	2	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45
	2-1/8	6	8	11	14	17	20	23	25	28	31	34	37	40	42
	2-1/4	5	8	11	13	16	19	21	24	27	29	32	35	37	40
	2-3/8	5	8	10	13	15	18	20	23	25	28	30	33	35	38
2-1/2	5	7	10	12	14	17	19	22	24	26	29	31	34	36	
2-5/8	5	7	9	11	14	16	18	21	23	25	27	30	32	34	
2-3/4	4	7	9	11	13	15	17	20	22	24	26	28	31	33	
2-7/8	4	6	8	10	13	15	17	19	21	23	25	27	29	31	
3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	

Using the table

To determine how long to operate sprinklers, find the precipitation rate that matches yours.

Move right, as you would on a mileage chart, to match the column containing the amount required for your lawn.

For instance, if the sprinkler precipitation rate is 1-1/4 inches and 1/2 inch water is needed, the sprinklers should run for 24 minutes.

If you do not know the correct amount of water your lawn requires, contact your local water department or extension office.

Or, call NCWCD at (970) 532-7700.

Watering tips

- Water infrequently but thoroughly to promote vigorous root growth and allow the lawn to benefit from rainfall.
- Minimize runoff by allowing for soak-time between several shorter watering cycles.
- Water when your lawn shows the need. A change of color and foot prints that remain for a long time indicate a thirsty lawn.
- If a small area is dry, water that spot by hand.
- Check regularly for broken or missing sprinkler heads. Make sure sprinklers are adjusted properly to water your lawn, not the pavement.
- Run your sprinklers during periods of low wind. Sprinkler performance and efficiency decrease rapidly as wind speed increases.
- Water late in the evening or early in the morning.

Weather and ET call center

888-NOCOH20 (662-6426)
or (970) 532-3704

After the greeting press “1” when prompted to use your phone key pad. Wait for the prompt, then enter the code for the location and report you desire.

Weather Stations	Yesterday's weather	Today's weather	Lawn water need
Fort Collins E.	101	201	301
Fort Collins C.	115	215	315
Loveland	102	202	302
Johnson's Cor.	111	211	311
Berthoud	112	212	312
Longmont S.	103	203	303
Longmont W.	114	214	314
Boulder E.	117	217	317
Boulder S.W.	118	218	318
Eaton	104	204	304
Windsor	116	216	316
Greeley West	113	213	313
Gilcrest	105	205	305
Wiggins	106	206	306
Fort Morgan	119	219	319
Brush	107	207	307
Sterling	108	208	308
Crook	109	209	309
Ovid	110	210	310

If you have **Internet access**, visit our Web site www.ncwcd.org Click on weather/ET. info Select a weather station site.

Lawn Watering Guide

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Irrigation Management Service
Landscape Water Management & Conservation Program