

Instructions for Setting Your Irrigation Timer

Typically there are four things to remember on all irrigation timers:

1. What is the current day and time?
2. What days do you want your system to run?
3. What time do you want to start watering?
4. How long is each station running?

Move through the settings on your controller in a clock-wise direction.

1. For easy programming, first slide the "Set Program" (Figure 1) toggle to the middle, and then start in the upper left corner of your controller and move clockwise through the settings. Start with program A (Figure 2).



2. Set the dial to current time and use the +/- buttons to locate the current time of day. Turn the dial one click to the left and use the +/- buttons to locate the day of the week. You only have to do this once (Figure 3).
3. Turn the dial to the "valve run times" to select a station and use the +/- buttons to enter the amount of watering time for that valve, which sends water to a particular zone in your yard or garden (Figure 4).
4. Turn the dial to start times and use the +/- buttons to select time you'd like your irrigation to begin. You can have three different start times per day, but typically you only need one (Figure 5).

5. Now turn the dial to “schedule” the days you want your irrigation to run or the numbers of days to skip in between watering. Use the +/- buttons to enter this information (Figure 6).
6. Now repeat steps 3, 4 & 5 for each station/valve you are controlling, and program A is complete. Use programs B & C for other zones that require difference frequencies of watering, such as turf, Xeriscape, vegetable gardens, etc.

Basic Controller Features:

- **Stations** control the valves that release the water to the irrigation **Zones** in your yard or garden. Put plants with similar water needs on the same station or zone. This allows for more efficient watering since all emitters and/or sprinklers on a single valve will run for the same amount of time. Multiple stations or zones allow you to customize watering amounts for different types of plants by allowing for different run times for different valves.
- The **Start Time** is the time at which a specific valve will open to irrigate a station or zone.
- The **Run Time** or **Station Duration** is the time, in minutes, a specific valve will stay open and therefore water a zone.
- **Semi-Auto** lets you run through an entire program (A, B, or C) whenever you want a supplemental watering.
- **Off** or **Stop** will stop programs from running until you toggle back to ‘Run’. Your programs will be saved. This is great during rainy periods.
- The **Manual** button allows you to run a single valve for the amount of time you select. This is helpful when you want to tune-up your irrigation system and check for leaks, misaligned sprinkler heads, or clogged drip emitters.
- A **Program** is where you store all of your settings. It consists of a set of stations set to specific start times and run times. Here, multiple programs A, B, & C allow you to run different valves on different days with different run times. Make sure each program runs stations with similar plant water needs to maximize irrigation efficiency.

Programming tips

- Group stations or valves that require the same watering frequencies on the same program (such as A, B, or C)
- Enter only one start time for each program even when there are multiple stations or valves
- Enter different start times on different programs (A, B, C) to avoid overlap of water times.
- Use multiple start times if excessive runoff is a problem

Landscape Watering Guidelines for Established and New Plants

Landscape Watering Guidelines						
How Much & How Often		Seasonal Frequency – Days Between Waterings				Water This Deeply
		Spring Mar – May	Summer May – Oct.	Fall Oct. – Dec.	Winter Dec. – Mar.	
Trees	Desert Adapted	14 – 30 days	7 – 21 days	14 – 30 days	30 - 60 days	24 – 36 inches
	High Water Use	7 – 12 days	7 - 10 days	7 - 12 days	14 - 30 days	24 – 36 inches
Shrubs	Desert Adapted	14 - 30 days	7 - 21 days	14 - 30 days	30 - 45 days	18 - 24 inches
	High Water Use	7 – 10 days	5 – 7 days	7 – 10 days	10 - 14 days	18 – 24 inches
Groundcovers & Vines	Desert Adapted	14 - 30 days	7 -21 days	14 - 30 days	21 - 45 days	8 – 12 inches
	High Water Use	7 – 10 days	2 – 5 days	7 – 10 days	10 - 14 days	8 – 12 inches
Cacti & Succulents		21 - 45 days	14 - 30 days	21 - 45 days	If needed	8 – 12 inches
Annuals		3 – 7 days	2 – 5 days	3 – 7 days	5 –10 days	8 – 12 inches
Warm Season Grass (Bermuda, etc.)		4 – 14 days	3 – 6 days	6 - 21 days	15 - 30 days	6 – 10 inches
Cool Season Grass (Rye, Fescue)		3 – 7 days	None	3 – 10 days	7 – 14 days	6 – 10 inches
These guidelines are for established plants (1 year for shrubs, 3 years for trees). Additional water is needed for new plantings or unusually hot or dry weather. Less water is needed during cool or rainy weather. <i>Drip run times are typically 2 hours or more for each watering</i>						

The chart above tells you how often you should be watering your plants.

Remember, it takes one gallon of water to moisten one cubic foot of soil...so for instance, look at the row that says TREES. In this example, you would need to water your tree for two hours or more... once every 14-30 days in the Spring, once every 7-21 days in the Summer, once every 14-30 days in the Fall, and once every 30-60 days in the Winter, but to a depth of 24-36 inches. That is how to read the chart above.

The controller controls the irrigation system, but **YOU** control the controller. Adjust your irrigation timer each season. Reset the timer on the first day of the month for: March, May, October, December.

Turf: Most people are not aware that lawns don't require the same amount of water in the winter as they do in the spring. As a result, most lawns are irrigated the same amount year-round, resulting in incredible water waste.

Links to Controller Manufacturers

-  800-724-6247, www.rainbird.com
- Hunter 800-733-2823, www.hunterindustries.com
- Irritrol Systems (formerly Hardie) 800-634-8873, www.irritrolsystems.com
- Weathermate www.weathermate.com
- Orbit 800-488-6156, www.orbitirrigation.com
- Champion 800-332-4267, www.championirrigation.com