

# RESOURCE PAGES

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## Water Audits

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Many local landscape companies are starting to offer landscape water audits. These audits consist of having a landscape professional evaluate your landscape and irrigation system and highlight issues relevant to your yard. The landscape professional typically leaves customers with a report listing recommendations to improve the landscape or irrigation system efficiency, as well as a watering schedule based on soil make-up and plant types.

### *How Do I Know When I've Watered 1 inch?*

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Here is a simple way to figure out how long to water your grass:

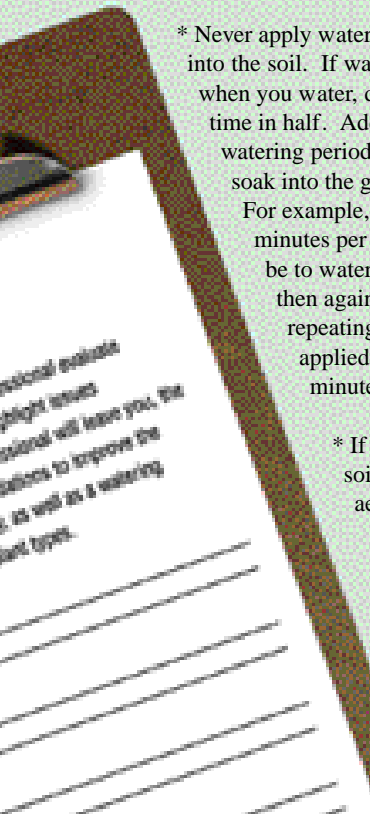
- 1) Set out 5 empty tuna cans (or something similar) at various places on your lawn within your sprinkler's range. Place cans halfway between the sprinklers and in the areas that generally receive the least amount of sprinkler water.
- 2) Turn on your sprinklers for exactly 15 minutes.
- 3) Measure the depth of the water in each can. Add the numbers and divide by 5 to get the average water depth (in inches) of all of the cans.
- 4) Check the following chart and locate your average water depth number. The box to the right of that number lists your total weekly watering time.



Average Water Depth in the Cans (in inches) After 15 minutes	Number of Minutes to Water 1" Once a Week
1/8	120
3/16	80
1/4	60
5/16	46
3/8	40
1/2	30
5/8	24
3/4	20
1	15
1-1/4	12

**Notes:**

- \* During hot, dry spells you may need to increase your total weekly watering time.
- \* Never apply water at a faster rate than it can soak into the soil. If water puddles or runs off your lawn when you water, divide your total weekly watering time in half. Add a “resting period” between watering periods so that the water has time to soak into the ground and reach the grass roots. For example, if your watering schedule is 40 minutes per week, your new schedule might be to water for 20 minutes at 6 AM, stop, then again for 20 minutes at 8 AM. Keep repeating this process until you have applied water for the total number of minutes you have scheduled.
- \* If the water doesn’t penetrate the soil well, the lawn may need to be aerated or thatched.





## *Websites and Books*

*Water Right - Conserving Our Water, Preserving Our Environment*; International Turf Producers Foundation; 1855 Hicks Rd., Suite C, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008; [www.lawninstitute.com](http://www.lawninstitute.com); [www.turfgrassod.org](http://www.turfgrassod.org)

*Ortho's All About Lawns*; Meredith Books, Des Moines, Iowa; 1999

*Healthy Lawns, Healthy Environment: Caring for Your Lawn in an Environmental Friendly Way*; EPA (H7506C) Washington, DC 20460

*How Much Water Does Your Lawn Really Need?* Sunset Special Report; June 1987

Turfgrass Resource Center: [www.turfgrassod.org/trc](http://www.turfgrassod.org/trc)

The All Seeing All Knowing Lawn Care Manual: [www.extension.unr.edu](http://www.extension.unr.edu) (Publications; Horticulture, Gardening)

Landscape Concepts Inc.: [www.landscapeconcepts.com/resources](http://www.landscapeconcepts.com/resources)

Lawn Talk: [www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/lawntalk](http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/lawntalk)



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