

Suggested Irrigation Schedule for Huntington Beach

Specifications: Turf grass, full sun, clay soil, and spray head irrigation

- Use this schedule as a guide when you program your irrigation controller.
- Watch your grass for stress and increase or decrease watering times accordingly.
- If you see water runoff, reduce watering time as the soil is saturated.
- If it is raining or the soil is already wet, turn off the controller and wait until soil is dry.
- The best time for irrigation is early mornings! Irrigation between 9 am – 5 pm is prohibited in HB because that is when evaporation rates are the highest.

Tip: For the month of September, even if the temperature remain hot, plants' water needs drop by approximately 30% because the days are shorter, so evaporation decreases.

Note: March and April are the most active growth period for plants and turf grass.

Month	Turf grass minutes / week	Suggested schedule	% Option**
January & February	8 minutes	1 day, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes	30%
March	18 minutes	3 days, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes	50%
April	24 minutes	3 days, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes	70%
May	24 minutes	3 days, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes	80%
June	27 minutes	3 days, 3 cycles* of 3 minutes	90%
July & August	32 minutes	4 days, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes	100%
September	18 minutes	3 days, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes	70%
October	16 minutes	2 days, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes	50%
November	8 minutes	1 day, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes	40%
December	8 minutes	1 day, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes	30%

* "Cycling" provides deeper watering and healthier root growth while reducing runoff. Allow an hour between cycles so water can move down through dense clay soils and reach the roots.

** Most newer automatic controllers have a "% Option" button or dial (also called the "Water Budget" feature on some controllers) that permits the watering run times for all electric irrigation valves managed by the controller to be increased or decreased with an adjustment by percentage. Since June, July and August have the hottest temperatures and the longest days, the dial should be on the 100% option, indicating maximum water need for plants during

summer. Another example is for the month of November, with shorter days and colder temperatures, plants require less water so the % option need to be adjusted to 40%.