

## Benefits of an Efficient Irrigation Schedule

The benefits of efficient irrigation include healthy landscapes, water savings, and lower water bills.

The idea is simple: the water applied to the landscape should be used by the plants being irrigated. This means minimizing the amount of water lost due to runoff, over spray, or percolation below the root zone of the plants.

### Too much of a good thing?

It's important to note that too much water causes problems.

**Weed Growth:** Over watering encourages weed growth. Weeds are water thieves and can out-compete desirable plants.

**Pest Infestations:** Excess water can be an invitation to water-loving pests/insects, which can damage plant health.

**Shallow Roots:** Watering too frequently can lead to shallow rooted plants that do poorly in dry spells. Watering too often also reduces the amount of air available in the soil, and some plants will actually "drown" under these conditions.

**Loss of Nutrients:** Soil provides nutrients to plants. Too much water can leach the nutrients through the soil, leaving plants undernourished.

**Plant Stress:** Too much water can stress plants, making them more susceptible to disease and pest infestations.

**Increased Yard Maintenance:** Excess water can lead to excess plant growth which leads to more yard work (weeding, pruning, mowing, fertilizing, pest management, etc).

**Erosion Damage:** Water is a powerful force that can erode away precious soil and damage structures such as fence posts.

**Runoff Hazards:** Wet sidewalks and streets can be a slip hazard, and water can damage cement and asphalt surfaces over time.