

## Scheduling Drip Irrigation

- For each valve, measure the irrigated area (square feet) of the valve circuit (area watered by that valve).
- Determine the plants water use category (high, moderate, low). See the Landscape Water Use Table for additional help.
- Measure the output of the valve circuit in gallons per minute. Start by making sure no water is running indoors or outdoors. Read the meter. Run the valve circuit for 5 minutes. Read the meter. Divide the gallons by 5 to determine the number of gallons per minute.
- Use the Landscape Water Use Table to determine the gallons per month required the valve circuit. Be sure to do the calculations for each month and for each valve circuit.
- With this information, determine your irrigation schedule for each valve circuit. Use the reference table below to calculate the monthly water use needs of each area irrigated via drip irrigation.

For example:

A valve circuit is landscaped with cherry trees and day lilies (moderate water use). The valve circuit waters 200 square feet.

So, the plants will need 490 gallons for the month of July.

*200 square feet x 2.45 gallons/square foot for moderate water use plants in July*

If the valve for this circuit applied 3 gallons per minute, the watering time would be 163 minutes for July

*490 gallons divided by 3 gallons per minute*

For well-established plants, run the valve circuit for 40 minutes on one day per week (with two start times, 20 minutes each) for the month of July so the water can penetrate the entire root zone.

**MONTHLY IRRIGATION USE FOR NON-TURF AREAS**

Use the Landscape Water Use Table for items "A" and "C" below

Month \_\_\_\_\_

Valve # \_\_\_\_\_

A. Water-use category of thirstiest plant type: (High) or (Moderate) or (Low)

B. Irrigated area in square feet for this valve \_\_\_\_\_

C. Water-use for thirstiest plant type per square foot for this month \_\_\_\_\_

D. Valve flow rate in gallons per minute \_\_\_\_\_

B	x	C	4	D	=	Minutes for this month