



**STOP RUNOFF AND  
WATER WISELY WITH**

# CYCLE & SOAK

**AN IRRIGATION METHOD THAT LIMITS  
WATER WASTE WHILE PROMOTING LAWN'S  
HEALTH AND ROOT GROWTH.**



**SHALLOW,  
FREQUENT**



**DEEP,  
FREQUENT**

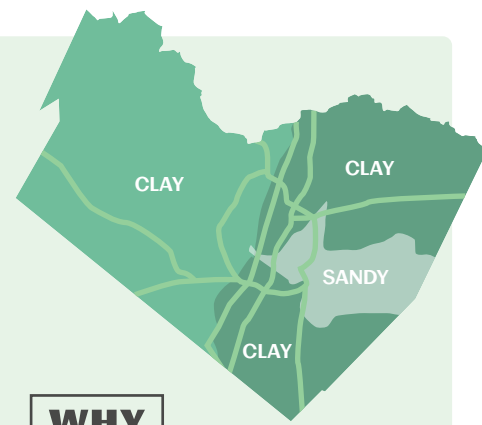


**DEEP,  
INFREQUENT**

## WATERING EFFECT ON ROOTS

**Deep Infrequent watering** trains roots to embed deeper and spread wider into the soil, protecting them from the summer heat, strengthening the plant's ability to survive droughts, and assisting with weed reduction.

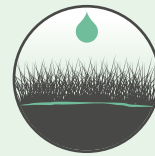
TRAVIS  
COUNTY



## WHY

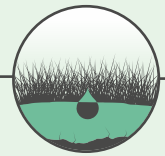
Our area soil is mostly clay and has a very low water absorption rate. As a result, **running your sprinklers for longer than the soil can absorb leads to runoff, water waste, and doesn't provide the desired impact.**

## WHY IT WORKS



### 1<sup>ST</sup> CYCLE

**BREAK THE SURFACE  
TENSION AND  
SATURATE THE TOP  
LAYER OF SOIL**



### 2<sup>ND</sup> CYCLE

**INFILTRATES  
THE SOIL MORE  
EFFICIENTLY AND  
DEEPLY AFTER THE  
FIRST CYCLE**

**A THIRD, AND SOMETIMES A FOURTH CYCLE,  
IS BENEFICIAL IF A SLOPE IS INVOLVED OR IF  
RUNOFF OCCURS AFTER THE SPRINKLERS RUN  
FOR JUST A FEW MINUTES.**



## HOW TO CHECK SOIL MOISTURE

**USE A MOISTURE PROBE, OR A LONG SCREWDRIVER  
AND PUSH IT 6-8" INTO THE SOIL IN SEVERAL PLACES.  
IT SHOULD SLIDE DOWN EASILY THROUGH MOIST SOIL,  
BUT WILL TAKE MORE EFFORT IF HITTING DRY SOIL.**

# HOW TO GET STARTED

## 1 Determine the time it takes until the water starts running off.

This is the longest time you should water in a single effort or sprinkler station, example: 10 minutes.

## 2 Determine how much water is needed.

The suggested amount is ½ to 1" a week in the Austin and surrounding areas. Rain counts toward the intended weekly amount of water.

## 3 Audit your sprinkler output.

A quick method is to place tuna cans or other shallow containers approximately every foot and see how long it takes to reach ¼ inch when the sprinkler is running. Multiply the time by 2 for a half inch or 4 for an inch.

## 4 Set your automated sprinkler stations.

Split your watering session into 2, 3 or 4 events, thus allowing the water to soak in between cycles. See example on the right. You can imitate this process manually if you don't have an automated system.

### TYPICAL AUTOMATED SPRINKLER SETUP

START TIME: 3:00 AM

CYCLE	TYPE	AREA	RUN TIME
1	BED SPRAY	FRONT PORCH BEDS	20
2	BED SPRAY	FRONT PORCH BEDS	20
3	TURF SPRAY	FRONT PORCH BEDS	24
4	TURF SPRAY	FRONT PORCH BEDS	24
5	TURF ROTOR	FRONT PORCH BEDS	50
6	TURF ROTOR	FRONT PORCH BEDS	50
7	BED DRIP	FRONT PORCH BEDS	60
8	BED DRIP	FRONT PORCH BEDS	60

TOTAL RUN TIME: 5HR 8MIN

### CYCLE & SOAK AUTOMATED SPRINKLER SETUP

START TIME: 3:00 AM

CYCLE	TYPE	AREA	1ST CYCLE	2ND CYCLE
1	BED SPRAY	FRONT PORCH BEDS	10	10
2	BED SPRAY	FRONT PORCH BEDS	10	10
3	TURF SPRAY	FRONT PORCH BEDS	12	12
4	TURF SPRAY	FRONT PORCH BEDS	12	12
5	TURF ROTOR	FRONT PORCH BEDS	25	25
6	TURF ROTOR	FRONT PORCH BEDS	25	25
7	BED DRIP	FRONT PORCH BEDS	30	30
8	BED DRIP	FRONT PORCH BEDS	30	30

TOTAL RUN TIME: 5HR 8MIN

Chart by Kirk Walden, TCMGA



SCAN FOR URL

**Learn More on How to Efficiently Manage Your Lawn In Central Texas**



PREPARED BY  
TRAVIS COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENERS

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