

Irrigation suggestions:

Irrigation: Recently I have had a few questions about how long to run your irrigation and what a home-owners clock should be set to. This is a broad question and is specific to each homeowner. The following tips are guidelines that can help you set up your irrigation clock.

Beds:

- Do you have older more established shrubs or have you just moved in or redone your Landscaping?
- Older Beds: Older plants (planted for a 12 months or more), do not need as consistent watering as plants planted within a 12 month period. Older Plants usually have a 1 Day run time and newer plants may need 2-3 days or more.
- Spray Heads should run for 8-12 minutes, Drip lines 30 minutes plus.

Turf:

- Turf needs a little stress to encourage roots to grow deeper in search of water. This improves drought tolerance and lessen turf diseases.
- Once temperatures reach the Mid 80's consistently, begin watering 1-3 days a week, to supplement when rainfall is absent.
- As we move into the summer months, continue to make changes to your system. You can always add Days watering or Time to each zone.
- Average turf zones should run from 15-30 minutes, depending on Location and type of head. (either Rotor, MP Rotor or Spray Head)
- Zones between homes can be turned off or turned down to prevent over watering and mower damage. Work with your neighbors.
- Check your rain sensors to make sure it functions properly.
- Start times can be as early as 12am or just after sundown. Adjust it and see what works
- An irrigation system is not a "set it and forget it" type system. Monthly or even weekly changes based on rainfall and temperature can create the best results.

These are some suggestions to help you build a simple program for irrigating your homes. Your turf and your plants will tell you if they need more water. The damage from heat stress can be quickly dealt with but over watering can lead to Root rot, fungal growth, disturbed turf from mowers and a higher water bill. If you have question submit them to Town Square and we can answer your specific questions.