

## Step 1: Identify Soil Type



### Loam Soil

Rich in organic matter and carbon, loam soil retains moisture well. Watering deeply 2-5 days a week is ample, based on daily temps.



### Clay Soil

Heavy soil that benefits from high nutrients. Retains more total water than other soils, although about half of this is available to plants. Water 2-4 days a week, based on daily temps.



### Rocky Soil

Soil may include loam, clay, or sand, but require more frequent water because of the volume of rocks present. Watering daily may be necessary, depending on the volume of rocks in the soil and soil depth.



### Sandy Soil

More fungus resistant, however sandy soil does not retain moisture well. Daily watering is usually required and in higher temperatures, twice a day.

## Step 2: Identify Sprinkler Type



### Rotor Sprinklers:

Typically spray 25 - 40 feet. Recommended watering time for proper gallons per minute: 45 - 60 minutes <sup>†</sup> (3-4 hours total per week)



### Pop-Up Sprinklers:

Can have heads that spray from 4 - 17 feet. Recommended watering time for proper gallons per minute: 15 - 20 minutes (1-1½ hours total per week)



### Impact Sprinklers:

Typically spray 20 - 30 feet. Recommended watering time for proper gallons per minute: 35 - 50 minutes <sup>\*</sup> (3-4 hours total per week)

<sup>†</sup> 3 gallons per minute nozzle size

<sup>\*</sup> 5 gallons per minute nozzle size

## Step 3: Make a Plan

Factor in these guidelines for each zone and take into account specific conditions of your landscape such as slopes. Develop a watering plan and enter this plan into your controller. You may need to water slopes, rocky, or clay soil types with several shorter cycles instead of one long cycle to prevent runoff or pooling.



### Example of plan for loam soil:

When daily average high temperatures are...

70°, water 1-2 cycles per week

80°, water 2-3 cycles per week

90°, water 3-4 cycles per week

Rotor Sprinklers: 45-60 minutes per cycle

Pop-Up Sprinklers: 15-20 minutes per cycle

Guidelines assume system is running head-to-head coverage at 80% or better efficiency.

Many factors determine water requirements. We recommend starting with these guidelines and experiment based on results.



## The Basics:

Watering less frequent, but longer durations, promotes deep root growth and reduces fungus and diseases.

Lawns should receive 1.5 inches of water per week. If you don't know what you are getting, take tuna cans or similar, place them in several areas of the lawn, run a watering cycle, and measure your results.

### **Step 1:**

Identify your soil type. Take a shovel or garden trowel, dig into the soil, and see what the soil looks like 2-6 inches deep.

### **Step 2:**

Identify your sprinkler head type. There are 3 basic types: Rotors (slowly rotate and reset), Impact (strike themselves to advance), and Pop-ups (pop up and continuously spray one area).

### **Step 3:**

Make a plan. Using the detailed information on the inside of this flyer. You should be able to water your lawn effectively and efficiently.



### **SPRINKLER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

Your automatic sprinkler system requires ongoing monitoring and adjustments to run optimally and effectively. Our sprinkler system maintenance program keeps your system performing at its best throughout the season.

- 7 monthly service checks per season
- Spring activation and fall winterization included
- Adjustments to sprinklers for optimal coverage
- Timer adjustments for changing needs throughout the season
- Professionally trained technicians to ensure optimal performance of your system
- Technicians with knowledge of what each plant needs for best watering practices



### **Your sprinkler system installation experts!**

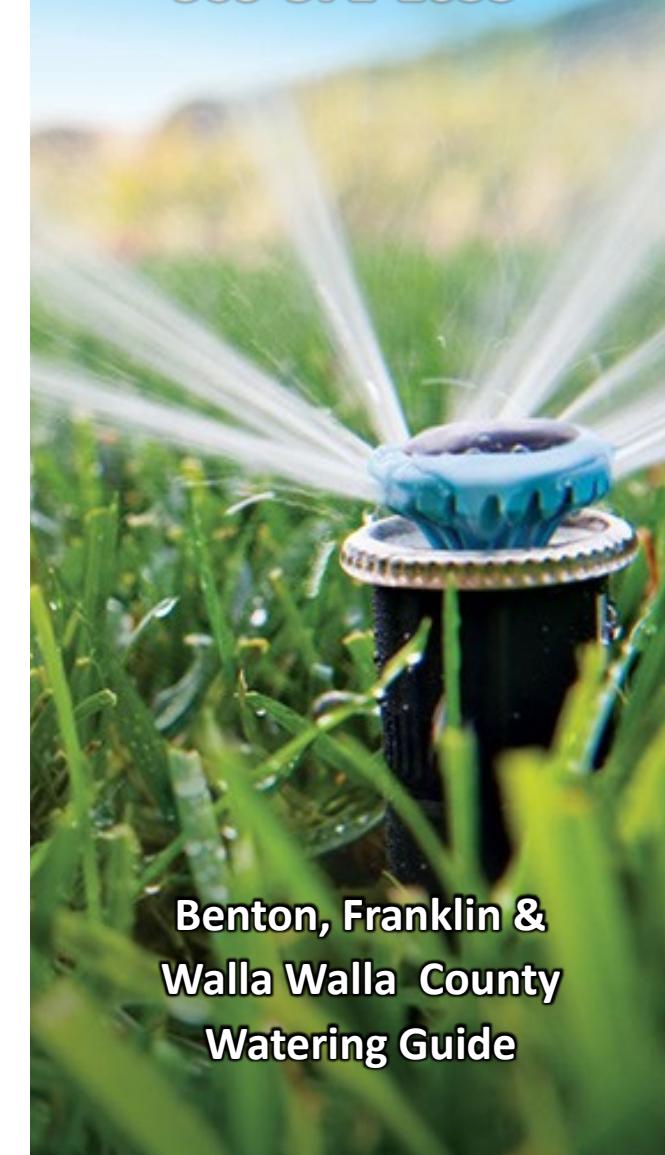
A cheap or poorly installed system will cause frustrations for years to come. Hire Colonial and fall in love with your sprinkler system!

**(509) 371-1655**



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**509-371-1655**



**Benton, Franklin &  
Walla Walla County  
Watering Guide**