How to Make Your Lawn *Awesome*

Over the years we have examined a variety of ways customers water their lawns. Through extensive research on how to properly water the clay soils in our area, we have developed a procedure which will achieve a healthy and virtually weed free lawn. Our clay soils do not easily absorb water; therefore, after operating a fixed spray zone for more than 5-7 minutes, runoff begins. *Anytime runoff occurs, the products we applied to your lawn are moving from where they were applied, even possibly going down the street, which results in little effect to your lawn.* We have hundreds of customers following this procedure with awesome results; this process has worked every time it has been used!

Assess Current Layout:

There are 2 basic types of sprinkler heads: *Fixed* heads which produce a fixed spray to a small area and *Rotary* heads which rotate as the water is being sprayed. Your system is divided into several zones. Operate each zone for 1-2 minutes; note the head type, plant type (shrubs, Bermuda or St Aug), area of the property and the sun exposure for each zone. Full sun areas receive direct sunlight more than 80% of each daylight period. Record a list as follows:

Zone	Heads	Plant Type	Area	Sun Exposure
1	Fixed	Shrubs	Front beds	Partial shade
2	Fixed	Bermuda	Front Yard	Full sun
3	Fixed	St Aug	Left side yard	Full shade
4	Rotary	Bermuda	Far Back yard	Full sun
5	Fixed	Bermuda/Shrubs	Near Back yard	Partial shade
6	Fixed	St Aug	Right side yard	Partial shade

Ensure each head is not obstructed by the grass or shrubs - raise heads as needed to ensure they extend above the plant. Ensure the spray from rotary heads is covering the entire zone; adjust nozzles to shorten or lengthen spray if necessary.

Run/Soak via 3-4 Start Times at 3-4 Day Intervals:

Set the *Days to Water* for 2 days per week at 3-4 day intervals (ex. Mon. & Thur.). Program at least 3 *Start Times* for the program. If your system has the ability for a 4th start time, use it. Set the 1st for 12:30 AM, 2nd for 2:30 AM, 3rd for 4:30 AM & 4th for 6:30 AM. NOTE: Never use 12:00 AM as a Start Time.

Programming Zone Run Times:

Zero out each *Zone Run Time* for **ALL** programs before starting. Create your entire watering plan on Program A. Most properties have less than 8 zones and only need one program; it may not be possible to water your entire property on the same program if you have more than 10 zones, or mostly all rotary head zones. Evenly split the zones into multiple programs if needed.

When completed with programming, total the amount of *run times* for all zones and add 20%. If this total is greater than 120 minutes you need to divide the system into multiple programs and operate the added program(s) on the day after Program A operates (ex. Tues. & Fri.).

Program Zone Run Times in minute increments

Type of Heads	**Fixed Heads**		**Rotary Heads**	
No. of Start Times	**3**	**4**	**3**	**4**
Shrubs	4-6	3-5	10-15	8-13
St Augustine	3-6	2-4	8-15	5-10
Bermuda & Zoysia	4-7	3-5	10-15	8-13

NOTE: The lowest number above is full shade while the highest is full sun. The north facing and the sides of the house are almost always full shade and should be programmed at the lowest run time; you can add time later, if needed.

After at least 3-4 weeks of using this process, walk your property around 10 AM on the day of watering to check for excessively wet areas. If the soil in a zone is too wet, reduce the run time for that zone by 1 minute and recheck in 2-3 weeks.

Seasonal/Water Budget Adjustments:

You do not apply the same amount of water to your lawn in the spring and fall as you do in the hot summer months. The *Seasonal/Water Budget Adjustment* feature allows you to modify the entire program run times with one adjustment to compensate for these variations in temperatures. *We try to always list the current Seasonal/Water Budget setting on your invoice along with any upcoming changes before the next treatment*.

If your system does not have this feature, write down the programmed *Zone Run Time* for each zone somewhere on your controller. Change the amount to the equivalent percentage (ex. 30% of 6 min. is 2 min.).

NOTE: If you do not reduce the run times during the cooler months, you will wash off the treatments we apply and receive little effect to your lawn, in addition to a breakout of weeds or damage to your lawn from over watering.

Why do most homeowners waste so much money irrigating their lawns?

Watering North Texas lawns in our clay soil is an art form – and most homeowners fail to do it properly simply because they do not know the best way to perform this critical task. The end results are large water bills and a lawn full of weeds, which could then lead to diseases in the lawn. While our Sprinkler Programming process will help you significantly reduce these issues, it still requires your intervention numerous times throughout the year (at least 20 times) to ensure you do not overdo or underdo it.

The best solution is to install a Weathermatic Smartline System consisting of a Controller (SL1600 for up to 16 zones or SL4800 for up to 48 zones) and a Weather Station (SLW5). The Weathermatic Smartline System eliminates almost every one of the aforementioned issues, and reduces water usage for irrigating your lawn. The only thing you need to do with this system is check the battery status once a year (checked at the controller), switch the system off in early fall, and switch the system back on in the spring. That's it!

The Weather Station will monitor the outside environment and send the information to the Controller. The Controller uses this input combined with the programmed settings for each zone, based upon your property, and determines how much water to apply at the each scheduled watering cycle. If enough rain occurs before the next watering cycle, it eliminates that cycle from occurring and starts the process all over again.

NOTE: Having a Rain/Freeze sensor on a standard sprinkler controller will not stop the next watering cycle unless the rain sensor is wet at the time the controller is programmed to operate.

Here is a typical scenario:

Your standard controller is scheduled to water on Wednesday morning, after midnight. It rains on Monday but the Rain Sensor dries by Wednesday morning, which is normal. Your system waters your lawn on Wednesday morning as programmed because the rain sensor was dry and couldn't stop it. The Smartline System stops this from occurring!

With the Smartline System in this scenario, Wednesday's scheduled watering cycle would have been eliminated – thus preventing your lawn from receiving too much water, which only causes those pesky issues listed earlier. This typical scenario, along with the amount of water being applied to your lawn being only what is needed, based on the actual weather at your home, saves you money on your water bill! Enough money to pay for the cost of the system in 2-3 years!

Why continue to do things the old fashion way; sending the water department more money, while wasting what is fast becoming a precious resource in North Texas? Install a Weathermatic Smartline System and rid yourself of all these headaches. We all want a beautiful lawn and irrigating it requires more than the typical system installed by the builder of your home.

You need an experienced individual who knows how to properly program these units. It takes an experienced individual more than 45 min. just to program each unit. Let us help you reduce your water consumption and get a better looking lawn too. Call us for a free quote on a Weathermatic Smartline System for your property - we need to know how many zones you have in your current system.