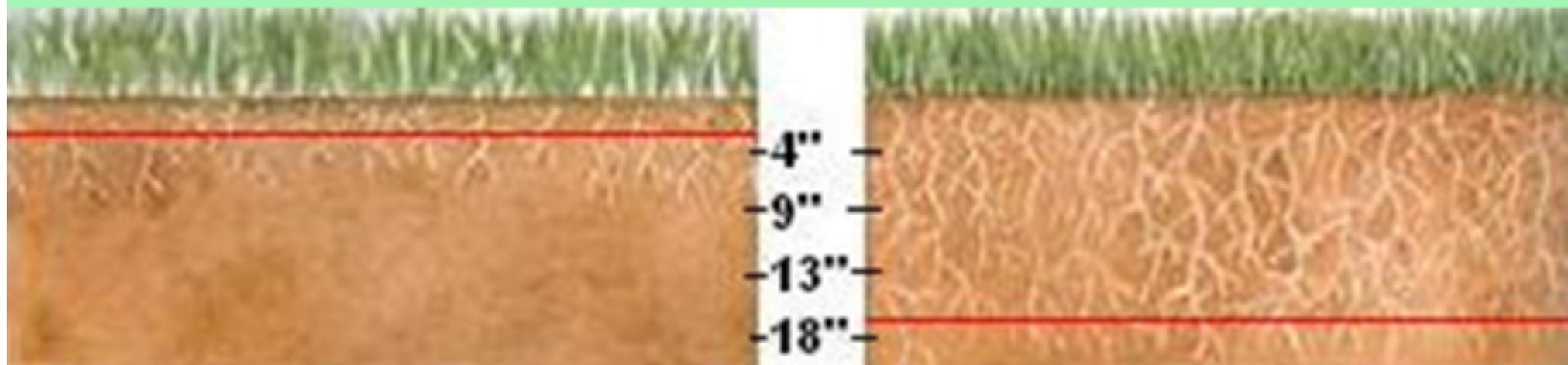


Root Development when Daily Watering vs. Infrequent Watering

- Applying $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of water daily supplies nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch of water a week. Yet the lawn is not as healthy as if you had applied the water in one $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch or two $\frac{3}{4}$ inch increments per week.
- The more water you apply at one time, the deeper and healthier the root system grows and the more resilient the grass becomes.



$\frac{1}{2}$ inch per day

(Approximate Water Penetration Per Irrigation)

$1\frac{1}{2}$ inch per week



The Information is provided by Scotts "Your Guide to A Beautiful Yard"
By Nick Christians with Ashton Ritchie

Guide to Deep and Infrequent Watering for your Lawn

The key to meeting the ideal water management is to water deeply and infrequently. Irrigate once a week, applying the whole amount at one irrigation. Or water twice a week, applying at least ½ inch of water at a time. Watering every day may seem as though your lawn is getting the best of care but it's not.

Frequent watering merely wets the soil surface. The roots proliferate where soil is moist but don't grow any deeper. A shallow-rooted lawn doesn't have the resources to survive stressful periods and the constant moisture around the blades increase thatch and can greatly increase disease.

How long to let your sprinklers run to supply a half inch or more of water depends upon two things: the rate of water delivery from the sprinkler and how fast the soil can absorb it.

Measuring how fast the water comes out is a simple procedure. Set a few straight sided containers around your lawn (12-ounce soup cans are best; water splashes out of shallow cans). Note the time, turn the sprinklers on, and let them run for 20 minutes or until water begins to run off. Measure the depth of the water in all the cans.

If the least filled can holds ¼ inch of water, your sprinklers will take 80 minutes to deliver an inch of water to all parts of the lawn. Here's how you figure the time: Divide 1 inch by the amount in the can (1 divided by ¼ = 4). Then multiply the result by 20 minutes (4 x 20 = 80 minutes).

Typically, water usage for the heat of the summer in the Intermountain Northwest is 2" to 3" per week. Dependent on the following factors - sun exposure, shade, sloping and soil conditions.

Soil can't always soak up the water as fast as the sprinkler supplies. If water runs into the street after 10 minutes, that's as long as you can operate the sprinklers at one time. In that case, if the least filled can is ¼ inch deep, it will take 40 minutes to apply an inch of water (4 x 10). To ensure it all soaks into the lawn, run the sprinklers in four 10-minute cycles with 20-30 minutes- or however long it takes for the to soak in- between each cycle.

Recognizing Need

Pay attention to the symptoms the lawn exhibits and the weather, and stretch the interval between watering as much as possible. One of the best clues to whether a lawn is ready for watering is to look for footprints in the grass. These are clear signals for water. Subtle color changes also indicate drying grass. As grass wilts, the blades fold inward and the lawn turns gray. Also watch for dry spots. These warn you that the entire lawn is drying and will soon need watering.

When to Water

Early morning is the most efficient time to water. Municipal water is at its peak, and there's usually less wind to distort the spray from its intended target. Also, the lawn has all day to dry before nightfall. Wet foliage overnight promotes diseases.