



## Stormwater Management Program

### IRRIGATION TIPS

#### MONTHLY/ GENERAL

- **Check irrigation systems** for: 1) broken or missing sprinklers /emitters, 2) misaligned heads or emitters, 3) broken pipes or drip tubing, 4) proper coverage & 5) proper seasonal settings.
- **Signs of over-watering:** 1) Soil is constantly damp. 2) Leaves or grass turn a lighter shade of green or yellow. 3) Young shoots are wilted. 4) Algae, moss or mushrooms are growing. 5) Stains appear on concrete or asphalt.
- **Use ground cover** (*i.e. wood chips*) to: 1) reduce evaporation, 2) add nutrients to the soil, 3) reduce weed growth and 4) aerate soil.

#### SPRING

- Avoid watering in the heat of the day or when windy.
- As the days get longer the temperature is still cool, so gradually increase irrigation time as weather warms.

#### SUMMER

- If irrigation run-off occurs either reduce irrigation or split cycle.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and retains solid moisture longer than a closely dipped lawn.

#### FALL

- Reduce irrigation scheduling by at least 25% with the shorter days & cooler nights.

#### WINTER

- Typically irrigation systems are turned off.



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## IRRIGATION TIPS

*Note: Irrigation runoff can pick up and transport various pollutants.*

### LAWNS

- **Water deeply and infrequently** to produce a healthier and deeper root system which is able to withstand heat and drought better.
- **Do not** water frequently and lightly, since this creates a shallow root system which does more harm than good.
- **Delay regular lawn watering during cool weeks of spring** to encourage deeper roots and make your lawn healthier for the rest of the summer. It also delays the first time you have to mow the grass.
- **Never cut grass less than 2 ½" tall.** Longer grass blades encourage roots to grow deeper, shade the root system, and hold soil moisture better.
- **Minimize turf areas** by expanding or creating natural areas filled with native, or drought tolerant vegetation. Compared to plants and trees, grass is thirsty and high maintenance.
- **Signs of Lawn Stress:** If you leave footprints behind in the lawn, it's a sign that the grass needs water. If your grass turns a dull gray-green color, that's another indication that it needs water. Give that off-color grass a good drink.
- **When run-off** occurs split the irrigation cycle in half.

**Note:** Irrigation runoff carries various pollutants from your yard (*i.e. fertilizers*) and those picked up in the gutter (*i.e. cigarette butts*) into the environment.

[More info - \(831\) 884-1212  
www.ci.marina.ca.us](http://www.ci.marina.ca.us)

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