

## EASY CONSERVATION TIPS FROM UNITED WATER IDAHO

**As you turn on your automatic sprinkler system for the irrigation season, this is a good time to inspect your system's operation. Check for:**

- Broken heads that need replacing
- Clogged head that need cleaning
- Heads that need adjusting so the water is hitting your grass or plants
- Pressure to see if it is too low (water not reaching desired area) or too high (spray is over-shooting desired area).

**As you set up your automatic sprinkler system, think about:**

- Adjusting your water schedule to fit the season. Your lawn will need less water in May and more water in the middle of August.
- What time of the day to water. Early morning is the best time. But, the biggest peak on our system is the early morning hours. So night is also an option if you do not want to compete against your neighbors for pressure. The key is to avoid watering during the heat of the afternoon when water is lost to evaporation and wind.
- Your soil type. If you have heavy clay soil and it does not soak in fast enough to prevent run off, then adjust your system to water for several shorter periods to allow the water to get into the soil.

**If you want to know your sprinkler system's output, do the tuna can test.**

1. Place several tuna cans or similar containers around your lawn.
2. Turn on the sprinkler for 15 minutes.
3. Measure the water in the cans with a ruler and determine the average depth.
4. Use the chart below to find out how long and how often to water.

<b>Lawn Watering Depth Chart:</b> Use the average depth in the cans and refer to the chart below to find out how long to water your landscape each week.			<b>Minutes to Water Once Each Week in:</b>	
<b>Average Depth in Test Cans</b>				
<b>Inches</b>	<b>Millimeters</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Fall</b>
1/8	3.2	60	120	43
1/4	6.3	30	60	24
3/8	9.5	20	40	16
1/2	12.7	15	30	12
5/8	15.9	12	24	9.5
3/4	19.1	10	20	8
1	25.4	8	16	6.5
1-1/8	28.6	6	13	5