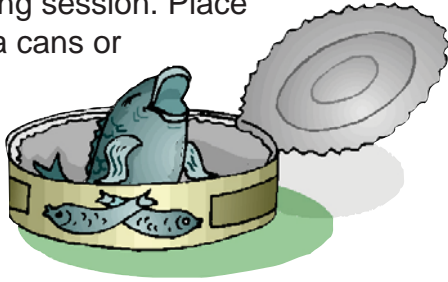


Position Sprinklers Properly

Make sure the water lands on your plants and grass and not on paved areas. Lawns only need about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of water in one watering session. Place empty tuna cans or measuring cups around the yard (all within range of the sprinkler, some close, some farther away). Turn on the sprinkler for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, measure the amount of water collected in each can/cup.



Check to see if there was even distribution of water in all the cans/cups. If the cans/cups collected $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of water, then you know you need to water for 30 minutes. If the cans/cups collected more or less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of water, then calculate approximately how long you need to water your landscape so that it receives $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of water in each watering session.

Mow Your Grass to the Right Height

The higher the grass, the more extensive the root system becomes. Grass with deeper roots is more drought-resistant. If the grass is mowed very short, it will put most of its energy into growing new leaf blades, and less energy into growing a root system (root system will be shallow). St. Augustinegrass should be mowed no shorter than 3-4 inches tall and never remove more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the leaf blades at one time.

Brevard County UF-IFAS Extension

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For more information on managing your lawn or landscape, visit:
<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>.

This brochure was adapted from the UF-IFAS Living Green website at: <http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu> and the UF-IFAS Extension publication: Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscapes located at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP110>.

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Watering your St. Augustinegrass Lawn



*University of Florida IFAS Brevard
County Extension*



Excessive watering keeps the root system saturated with water and is harmful to your lawn.

Too Much of a Good Thing

Is your St. Augustinegrass lawn getting too much water? Excess water (irrigation) is one of the major causes of problems in St. Augustinegrass lawns. Some of the problems that may result from overwatering include:

- Shallow root system
- Increased diseases
- Increased weeds
- Increased insect infestations
- Reduced drought tolerance
- Increased thatch and excessive growth
- Reduced tolerance to other stresses such as shade and soil problems

Let Your Lawn Tell You When to Water

Lawns should be irrigated when approximately 50% of the lawn shows signs of wilt. These signs include:

- Leaf blades are folded in half lengthwise in an attempt to conserve water.
- The grass takes on a blue-gray tint.
- Footprints or tire tracks remain visible on the grass long after being made.



A lawn dying from fungus due to overwatering.

The length of time needed between irrigations will vary depending upon grass species, soil characteristics, your location in the state, time of year, temperatures, and any particular micro-environmental effects such as shade.

How Much Water Should You Apply?

Florida soils are typically sandy and hold one inch of water in the top 12 inches of soil. Since most roots are in the top four to six inches of soil, **¾ inch of water** will wet that area and below to encourage deeper rooting.

Water at the Right Time

Watering in the early morning or late evening when temperatures and wind speeds are the lowest will reduce water loss through evaporation.

Your local water management district may impose watering restrictions. In Brevard County, **watering is restricted to no more than two days per week and no watering between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.**

Set Your Timers

To keep your yard healthy with just enough water, it is important to set your timer with a watering schedule that suits your area considering the amount of rainfall you usually get. For example, in central Florida,



a suggested watering schedule is two days a week (such as Monday and Thursday) with an irrigation run time that varies by month, as described in the table below.

January--12 min.	July--49 min.
February--10 min.	August--63 min.
March--17 min.	September--48 min.
April--40 min.	October--43 min.
May--64 min.	November--32 min.
June--50 min.	December--16 min.

Calibrate Your Irrigation System

Be sure to calibrate your irrigation system to determine how long to run the system so that it delivers the amount of water recommended for your area. Irrigation systems can be very different and could be delivering too much, not enough, or just the right amount of water, depending on the type of irrigation system and the zone being watered.



Make sure your sprinklers are not watering sidewalks or driveways.

If rain is forecasted within the next couple of days, do not irrigate.