



IRRIGATION USE 50% LESS WATER

Delta Bluegrass Company's water wise California Native Sod products have been proven to survive with a minimum of 50% less water than traditional turfgrass species



IRRIGATION

Irrigation is a very fluid dynamic with watering times dependent upon many factors. They include, temperature, length of day, season, rainfall and soil type. (sandy or heavy soil) These effects can determine your need to increase or decrease the frequency of your irrigation. Strong wind conditions can severely affect the uniformity of irrigation. Wind can further increase the rate of evaporation of moisture from the turf.

- Begin irrigation cycles at 5:00 am or earlier. This will reduce water loss due to evaporation and also reduce the chance of developing disease.
- Once areas are well established, it is best to water deeply and infrequently. This further encourages the water seeking roots of these California native species to drive down further into the soil for maximum drought tolerance.
(See ESTALISHING NEW SOD below)

IT IS RECOMMENDED that your sod area establish itself through one summer season before you reduce your irrigation to 50% less that what you would apply to traditional turf areas.

- Problems found in grass stands are most always associated with water, too much or too little. Because most irrigation clocks are set to run at night or early in the morning, most people never actually see their sprinklers in action. Many times heads become plugged with debris, parts wear out, nozzles get turned the wrong direction and so forth.
- Check your irrigation for problems every time you adjust your watering times. Turn your system on and watch it run. Any areas that have turned bluish gray demand your attention first. Make sure that you have even, uniform spray coverage.
- Due to the water efficient nature of native grasses, it is recommended to have a separate irrigation station for ornamental flower bed areas.

ESTABLISHING NEW SOD

New sod is perishable and must be installed immediately to ensure a successful, healthy lawn. A light watering of the ground before installation is recommended, since dry soil acts like a wick and removes the moisture from the sod. Cooler ground temperatures will help prevent the roots from shock.

FIRST TWO WEEKS

Please stay off new sod until after the first mowing.

- Proper watering of sod is essential for root establishment. The day of installation, enough water should be applied to penetrate the sod and two inches of native soil.
- From day two on, keep your sod and soil moist throughout the day. The roots are short so the sod cannot withstand large amounts of water at a single time. Other than the first day, the ground under the sod should never be soggy. Usually watering four to six times during the day, for approximately five to six minutes each time, is required until the roots have been established. Root establishment will usually begin within seven to fourteen days depending on the time of year your sod is installed and your environment.
- Too much water will rob the roots of oxygen and in warmer weather that possibly can lead to disease. The length of each watering cycle will depend on your soil type and the output of your irrigation system. A clay type soil may need five minutes, four times a day compared to a sandy loam which may need seven minutes, five times a day. You have to judge the minutes given, but here is a tip: If the water is standing under the sod for more than just a few minutes after an irrigation set has finished or if the soil is soggy, you are probably giving the sod too much water at one time.
- Start reducing the frequency of watering cycles just before the first mowing. This will firm up the soil for a healthy mowing cycle.
- The first mowing should be approximately 14 days after the sod has been installed. In the winter you may need to wait longer for the roots to establish prior to mowing.
- Never mow off more than 1/3 of the blade during a mowing cycle. This results in less stress for the plant.

AFTER TWO TO THREE WEEKS

- Reduce the frequency of times you water at a gradual pace. You can validate the establishment of the roots by pulling up a corner of the sod, and if you feel some resistance, you can eliminate the last irrigation set of the day. However, as stated above, take into consideration the temperature, length of day, season, rainfall and soil type. You need to add a couple of minutes to the length of irrigation.
- Now the roots should be deep and can tolerate a few more minutes of water per cycle. In another week or so you can repeat this process until you are only watering once a day. Deeper, less frequent watering will help roots stretch down deeper and establish quickly into the soil.
- Begin to fertilize your new sod approximately four to six weeks after installation to ensure continued establishment of the roots. Our **Bolero™ Lawn Food** is an excellent choice for any blend or variety of sod. It can also be purchased through your local distributor.

DELTA BLUEGRASS COMPANY

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