

Landscape Irrigation Tips from Cinco Municipal Utility District No. 8

April showers bring May flowers. Time for irrigation is once again upon us. 60-70% of residential water use goes to landscaping, with lawns using the most water. Typical irrigation system efficiency is 50% or less. Cinco Municipal Utility District No. 8 (Cinco MUD 8") would like to assist its customers in saving water and money. Cinco MUD 8 makes available FREE evaluations for residential outdoor irrigation systems. These evaluations are provided by the W.I.S.E. Guys (Water Irrigation System Evaluation) with all costs paid for by Cinco Municipal Utility District No. 1 (the Cinco Ranch area Master District) and the North Fort Bend Water Authority. For your FREE irrigation evaluation, please log on to www.nfbwa.com/wiseguys. For more information on W.I.S.E. Guys, please visit www.vepollc.com and click on W.I.S.E. Guys. Get your EVALUATION now.

Lawns do not need to be watered every day, twice per week is sufficient for grass health. Even in severe drought, twice per week watering promotes deeper grass roots. Residents should set lawnmowers on a high setting which would allow the grass to absorb more moisture and naturally destroy out weeds.

The soil in Cinco MUD 8 has a high CLAY content so the ground absorbs water at a slower rate. Set your irrigation timer to water for FIVE to EIGHT minutes per zone and repeat one hour later. This is known as "Cycle and Soak." When you participate in the W.I.S.E. Guys program, the certified contractor will reset your controller for the right amount of time based on sun/shade/soil type and the type of sprinkler heads on each zone. This will allow the ground to absorb the water and avoid water runoff (wasted water). Another money saving technique is to shorten the watering time by ONE minute and if the grass is still green, money is saved. The addition of a RAIN SENSOR, which will disengage the sprinklers after a specific amount of rain, will save water and money.

The time for WATER CONSERVATION is now. WATER is our most precious resource. Use it wisely.