

April 2012 Water Conservation Tip - Hydrozones

April 30, 2012

When you and your spouse or significant other sit down for a meal, do you both eat the same amount of food? The chances are that one of you eats more than the other. Why? Because you have different needs and require different amounts of nutrition.

Your yard is no different. When it comes to water, the shrub areas need a different amount of water than the turf areas. Your shrubs or turf in the afternoon sun need more water than those that are protected by the shade. Yet when it comes to watering your yard, most people water everything the same. We put the same amount of water in the turf as we do in the flower beds. We water the turf in the full afternoon sun the same as we do the turf in complete shade. Separating different plant materials with different exposures so they may be watered independent of one another is called hydrozoning. Since January of 2009, the rules of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality require all new irrigation systems to be hydrozoned. Applying only the amount of water required by the plant material versus watering everything the same can save up to 21,300 gallons of water annually on a typical residential lot. Be sure to have your irrigation system evaluated by a W.I.S.E. Guys Licensed Irrigator to determine if you can begin conserving water today by hydrozoning.