

Updated information 4/4/2024

Two new additions to the “Water Matters” info:

- Seasonal Irrigation Schedule
- Cycle and Soak Irrigation

1. New Seasonal Irrigation Schedule

Sun City Seasonal Irrigation Schedule <i>(Water Budget / Seasonal Adjust Setting Guidance)</i> Based on Sustained Daytime High Temperature during growing season	
Below 75° System Off	Between 75° and 85° 50% (-50 for some digital controllers)
Between 85° and 95° 75% (-25 for some digital controllers)	Over 95° 100% (0 for some digital controllers)

Watering in Sun City can be done in seasonal percentages. What this means is, early in the season our lawns do not need as much water as they do in the heat of summer. (If you choose to

water your lawn when it is dormant, it is possible for mildew/mold to form.)

As a conservation tool using seasonal watering can save thousands of gallons of water per year.

2. Cycle & Soak Irrigation

Sun City does not have a lot of soil under our sod. Our 3 to 4 inches of dirt does not hold a lot of moisture. The soil will absorb only a small amount of water and then the excess water runs off the yard and down the street.

Since we are currently restricted to watering only one day per week, your sprinkler system must be programmed to meet this requirement without creating a "run-off" situation. The Cycle & Soak (C&S) method can and will assist you in reaching your new watering goals.

A C&S method achieves new irrigation objectives by setting sprinkler zones to water the turf enough to soak the soil without any runoff.

A resident decides how much water the specific zone requires per week to reach the minimum precipitation rate (PR) required for the proper growth of the grass.

See Precipitation Rate Chart. The zone PR is then divided by the number of run times need to meet the total PR.

This number is then entered into "Run Time" section of the irrigation controller.

The calculation and setting of all zone "Run Times" will follow the above formula.

The resident achieves this by setting their zone times to 7 minutes and starting their system around midnight on their one, allotted watering day each week. Once all zones are complete, there is an hour break, then they cycle again.

This method of irrigating your lawn is made up of multiple cycles for each station with 30 to 60 minutes breaks for the water to soak into the soil between each cycle.

The first cycle will break the surface tension of the soil, saturating the top layer of soil.

The second cycle infiltrates the soil more efficiently and deeply after the first cycle.

A third, and sometimes a fourth cycle, can be beneficial if a slope is involved.

Cycle and Soak Watering Time Guidelines

Type of Irrigation	100% (1 Inch Per Week)				
	Total Minutes	Time using 6 Cycles	Time using 4 Cycles	Time using 2 Cycles	
Spray Heads					
Grass in the sun	36	6	9	18	
Flower beds in the sun	28	5	7	14	
Grass in the shade	28	5	7	14	
Flower beds in the shade	20	3	5	10	
Single-stream Rotors					
Grass in the sun	100	17	25	50	
Flower beds in the sun	88	15	22	44	
Grass in the shade	88	15	22	44	
Flower beds in the shade	72	12	18	36	
Multi-stream rotors					
Grass in the sun	148	25	37	74	
Flower beds in the sun	132	22	33	66	
Grass in the shade	132	22	33	66	
Flower beds in the shade	112	19	28	56	
Drip					
Flower beds in the sun	60	10	15	30	
Flower beds in the shade	40	7	10	20	
Water Budget/Seasonal Adjust Settings Guidance based on Sustained Daytime High Temperature during growing season					
- Between 75 and 85 degrees: 50% to achieve 1/2 inch					
- Between 85 and 95 degrees: 75% to achieve 3/4 inch					
- Over 95 degrees: 100% to achieve 1 inch					

* Note: Some controllers use a +/- percentage versus an absolute percentage. Please refer to the manual to determine the method for setting the Water Budget/Seasonal Setting for the specific controller

We hope you find this is helpful.

If you need assistance, you can contact:

N57 Water Ambassador (position is currently vacant)