

# Keep Your Green!



## Save Some Water Without Losing the Lawn!

Joe Tomasiello, ACE

With spring ending, the summer heat has already begun. But as we pack our water bottles to stay hydrated, remember your lawn's increased need for water as well. St. Augustine and Zoysia grasses require plenty of water to keep their lush color through high temperatures. We recommend ¾" of water two or three times each week for optimal results.

But while water will be critical for a healthy lawn this summer, we understand that increased water usage will affect your utility bills. But while it may be tempting to save money by restricting the water you give to your turf, a dehydrated lawn is more easily damaged by drought stress, weeds, and pests – which could cost much more in the long run!



**Consistent watering is critical for turf health. In extreme conditions, drought damage can begin in a matter of days.**



Fortunately, protecting that piggy bank doesn't mean risking serious lawn damage. The best approach is to reduce *wasteful* watering. Here are some tips for reducing water waste this summer!

### Let it Grow

Keeping your grass at the upper recommended limit will help shade the soil and prevent excessive evaporation. Go long and let those grass blades create a protective canopy effect to shield the turf and preserve moisture.



**TRIM ZOYSIA TO 3.5" AND ST. AUGUSTINE TO 4".**

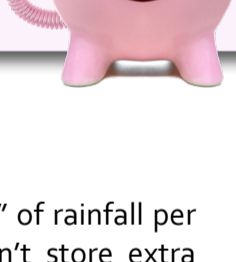
### Check Your Heads

Replace traditional rotor sprinkler heads with MP (matched precipitation) heads. MPs are designed to mimic the slower precipitation rate of natural rainfall which gives your lawn more time to absorb water. This reduces runoff and waste. MPs will need to run slightly longer, but you'll be watering much more efficiently!

### Get Smart

App-based irrigation systems like *B-Hyve* and *Rachio* allow you to control your irrigation system right from your smartphone. Ditch those confusing control panels – these user-friendly apps monitor water usage and adjust timing based on weather conditions saving you time, effort, and money!

**USE AN APP TO EASILY MONITOR WATER USAGE!**

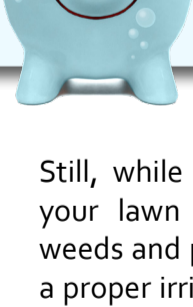


### Waste Not

Florida receives an average of 54" of rainfall per year, but because your lawn can't store extra water for later, too much at once is simply a waste. Decorative rainwater barrels provide free water and reduce the load on the irrigation system.

### Thicken Up!

A well fertilized lawn will withstand drought stress better and retain more moisture in the soil. By providing the nutrients needed for a healthy, more drought tolerant root system, regular fertilization helps prevent water waste and runoff.



**KEEP TURF ABSORBENT WITH FERTILIZATION!**

Still, while a fertilization program will keep your lawn in optimal shape by managing weeds and pests, even turf experts agree that a proper irrigation schedule is the single most important factor in turf health. Without it a lawn can die in just weeks!

Whether it's water or air-conditioning, seasonal increases are a part of life here in Florida. But by watering more efficiently, you can continue to protect your lawn...and your budget!

### DEANS SERVICES RECOMMENDED WATERING SCHEDULE

	Amount	Times weekly	MP Time*	PGP Time*
86°+	3/4"	3	105 mins	45 mins
76-85°	1/2"	2	70 mins	30 mins
46-75°	1/2"	1	70 mins	30 mins
< 46°	Do not water			



#### \*MP Heads vs. PGP Heads

\*MP (high-efficiency) heads disperse water more slowly than PGP heads. This reduces water runoff by allowing your lawn more absorption time. While more efficient, MP heads require a longer run time than traditional PGP heads.

To tell which type you have, look at the spray pattern. MPs apply water in several pin streams while PGPs spray in a jet-spray pattern similar to a garden hose.

- Ornamentals require 20 minutes, twice per week.
- Suggestions are approximate.
- Local restrictions may apply.