

Smart Irrigation Practices

Fine-Tune Your Irrigation System to Save Money

and See Better Results

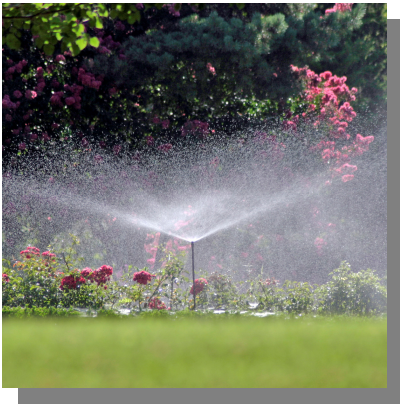


Irrigation systems offer convenience in protecting your landscape investment. You can enjoy your yard, by keeping it healthy while you water efficiently, save time *and* money.

With some simple practices and new technology, existing irrigation systems can be made more efficient, lowering your water bill, reducing run-off and eliminating waste. Smart irrigation practices will result in a *healthier* lawn and landscape, plus conserve water.

Consider these water-saving tips to maintain and update automatic irrigation systems:

Remember the [City of Brooksville is under One Day per Week Watering Restrictions](#)--please use this schedule if you do need to water!



If your address ends with: You may water only on:

0 or 1	Monday
2 or 3	Tuesday
4 or 5	Wednesday
6 or 7	Thursday
8 or 9	Friday

Mixed addresses or areas with no address (such as common areas associated with a subdivision) also water on Friday.

Most properties may water **only** before 8:00 AM or after 6:00 PM.

Adapt your watering schedule to the weather and the season. Familiarize yourself with the settings on your irrigation controller. Adjust the watering schedule regularly to conform to current weather conditions.

Schedule each individual zone in your irrigation system. "Scheduling" accounts for the type of sprinkler, sun or shade exposure and the soil type for the specific area. The same watering schedule should almost never apply to all zones in the system.

Inspect your system monthly. Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads, and other problems, or engage an irrigation professional to regularly check your system. Clean micro-irrigation filters as needed.

Adjust sprinkler heads. Correct obstructions that prevent sprinklers from distributing water evenly. Keep water off pavement and structures.

Get a professional system audit. Hire a professional to conduct an irrigation audit and uniformity test to make sure areas are being watered evenly. This can be especially helpful if you have areas being under-watered or brown spots.

Install a rain shutoff-switch - inexpensive and effective. Required by law, these money-saving sensors turn off your system in rainy weather and help to compensate for natural rainfall. The device can be retrofitted to almost any system.

Consider low volume drip irrigation for plant beds. Install micro irrigation for gardens, trees and shrubs. Micro irrigation includes drip (also known as trickle), micro spray jets, micro-sprinklers, or bubbler irrigation to irrigate slowly and minimize evaporation, runoff and overspray.

Water at the optimum time. Water when the sun is low or down, winds are calm and temperatures are cool - between the evening and early morning - to reduce evaporation. You can lose as much as 30% of water to evaporation by watering mid-day.

Water only when needed. Saturate root zones and let the soil dry. Watering too much and too frequently results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease and fungus.

Best advice for a healthy, drought- and stress-tolerant lawn and landscape: use less water. These tips will help keep more money in your wallet instead of sending it down the drain.

**To obtain more information call the City of Brooksville
Code Enforcement at 352-540-3810**