

# How Much Water Does My Irrigation System Use?

The below examples show how much water typical irrigation systems use. These scenarios assume a typical 12-gallons-a-minute output per zone. Your zones, water pressure, nozzle size, and other factors may vary.

I have a ¼ acre or smaller property: Scenario [A](#) [B](#) [C](#)

I have a ½ acre or larger property: Scenario [D](#) [E](#)

## How to get a rough estimate of my usage:

I have \_\_\_ turf zones running \_\_\_ minutes per cycle, and  
\_\_\_ shrub zones running 10 minutes per cycle, 2 days a week =

12 gallons a minute per turf zone	12 gallons a minute per shrub zone
<u>minutes per cycle</u>	<u>minutes per cycle</u>
gallons per zone per cycle	gallons per zone per cycle

\_\_\_ x \_\_\_ zones = \_\_\_ gallons per cycle for \_\_\_ turf zones

\_\_\_ x \_\_\_ = \_\_\_ gallons per cycle for \_\_\_ shrub zones

\_\_\_ x \_\_\_ cycles = \_\_\_ gallons per week for \_\_\_ turf zones

\_\_\_ x \_\_\_ days = \_\_\_ gallons per week for \_\_\_ shrub zones

\_\_\_ x 4 weeks = \_\_\_ a month for \_\_\_ turf zones

\_\_\_ x 4 weeks = \_\_\_ a month for \_\_\_ shrub zones

Totaling \_\_\_\_\_ gallons or divide into 748 to equal \_\_\_\_\_ Ccfs

**Next step:** Contact a Certified Licensed Irrigation Auditor to get a detailed assessment of water use and how to water efficiently.

## Watering Best Practices

**Seasons change, so should your system.** Familiarize yourself with the settings on your irrigation controller and adjust the watering schedule regularly to conform with seasonal weather conditions.

**Play “zone” defense.** Schedule each individual zone in your irrigation system to account for the type of sprinkler, sun or shade exposure, and the soil type for the specific area. The same watering schedule rarely applies to all zones in the system.

**Make it a date.** Inspect your irrigation 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.

**Get your head adjusted.** Correct obstructions in sprinkler heads that prevent sprinklers from distributing water evenly. Keep water off pavement and structures.

## I have a ¼ acre or smaller property:

**Scenario A** – I have 4 turf zones running 20 minutes per cycle, 4 days a week =

12 gallons a minute per zone  
20 minutes per cycle  
240 gallons per cycle

240 x 4 zones = 960 gallons per cycle for 4 zones

960 x 4 cycles = 4,800 gallons per week x 4 weeks =

**Totaling 19,200 gallons or 25 Ccfs a month** through an irrigation meter or through a residential meter not including use inside home.

**Scenario B** – I have 4 turf zones running 20 minutes per cycle, and  
2 shrub zones running 10 minutes per cycle, 4 days a week =

12 gallons a minute per turf zone  
20 minutes per cycle  
240 gallons per cycle

240 x 4 zones = 960 gallons per cycle for 4 turf zones

12 x 10 x 2 = 240 gallons per cycle for 2 shrub zones

960 x 4 cycles = 4,800 gallons per week for turf

240 x 4 days = 960 gallons per week for shrubs

4800 x 4 weeks = 19,200 gallons a month for turf

960 x 4 weeks = 3,840 gallons a month for shrubs

**Totaling 23,040 gallons or 30 Ccfs a month** through an irrigation meter or through a residential meter not including use inside home.

**Scenario C**– 4 turf zones running 40 minutes per cycle, 2 days a week =

12 gallons a minute per zone  
40 minutes per cycle  
480 gallons per cycle

480 x 4 zones = 1,920 gallons per cycle for 4 zones

1,920 x 2 cycles = 3,840 gallons per week x 4 weeks

**Totaling 15,360 gallons or 20 Ccfs a month** through an irrigation meter or through a residential meter not including use inside home.

## I have a 1/2 acre or larger property:

**Scenario D**– I have 10 turf zones running 20 minutes per cycle, and  
5 shrub zones running 10 minutes per cycle, 4 days a week =

12 gallons a minute per turf zone <u>20 minutes per cycle</u>	12 gallons a minute per shrub zone <u>10 minutes per cycle</u>
240 gallons per zone per cycle	120 gallons per zone per cycle

240 x 10 zones = 2400 gallons per cycle for 10 turf zones  
120 x 5 = 600 gallons per cycle for 5 shrub zones

2,400 x 4 cycles = 9,600 gallons per week for 10 turf zones  
600 x 4 days = 2,400 gallons per week for 5 shrub zones

9,600 x 4 weeks = 38,400 gallons a month for 10 turf zones  
2,400 x 4 weeks = 9,600 gallons a month for 5 shrub zones

**Totaling 47,872 gallons or 64 Ccfs a month** through an irrigation meter or through a residential meter not including use inside home.

**Scenario E**– I have 10 turf zones running 40 minutes per cycle, and  
5 shrub zones running 10 minutes per cycle, 2 days a week =

12 gallons a minute per turf zone <u>40 minutes per cycle</u>	12 gallons a minute per shrub zone <u>10 minutes per cycle</u>
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**Totaling 43,200 gallons or 57 Ccfs a month** through an irrigation meter or through a residential meter not including use inside home.

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