



Did You Know?

Using more water during certain times of the day increases your water rate?

Macomb Township purchases all of its water directly from the City of Detroit. The water rate that Detroit charges the Township is based on the amount of water it supplies to the Township during its peak customer usage time. The peak time for water usage is typically from 5 am to 11 pm, when the majority of customers are using the most amount of water for activities such as bathing, cooking, lawn sprinkling, etc. In order to provide for this higher usage of water at these specific times, the City of Detroit must use a larger system to supply the water to its customers. That means larger pumps, larger water mains, and more electricity to operate the water system, among other things that increase the cost of operating the system.

In order for the City of Detroit to recoup the costs for this increased usage, they charge the municipalities that they serve, like Macomb Township, an increased rate for using more water during these peak times.

Using your sprinklers during the peak hours of 5 am to 11 pm increases your water rate?

Automatic lawn sprinklers are a significant part of the Township's peak water usage between the hours of 5 am and 11 pm. Using your lawn sprinklers between the hours of 5 am to 11 pm increases the amount of water that the Township purchases from the City of Detroit during this peak usage period. This increased usage in turn raises the rate the Township is charged by Detroit.

By setting your automatic lawn sprinkler system to operate between the hours of 11 pm and 5 am, you can reduce the Township's demand for water during the peak times. This in turn reduces the rate that Detroit charges the Township, which results in water rates being lower for you.

You have control over your water rate?

Because the Township is charged by the City of Detroit based on the water usage during peak times (5 am to 11 pm), the simplest way to keep water rates lower is to decrease the amount of water that you use during the peak times.

Approximately 90% of the Township's water usage is for residential purposes. The majority of homes in the Township utilize automatic lawn sprinklers. If all homeowners in the Township would set sprinklers to operate between the hours of 11 pm and 5 am the overall reduction in the amount of water the Township uses during the peak usage times could be significant. This reduction in peak water usage would in turn reduce the cost for the City of Detroit to supply water to the Township. This cost saving would help to keep water rates lower for all Township water customers.

Sprinkling your lawn in the early morning is good for your lawn as well as your wallet?

Lawn care experts recommend watering your lawn in the early morning hours (before 5 am). By doing this you are allowing most of the water to soak into the soil, which promotes roots to grow deep into the soil. Any water that has not soaked into the soil will evaporate when the sun comes up in the morning. This will also help eliminate the possibility of fungal growth from excess water on the ground surface.

In addition to keeping water rates lower, sprinkling between the hours of 11 pm and 5 am will promote a healthy lawn. For more information, please read the articles found later in this document:

Water conservation does not affect water rates?

Despite what may be happening in other parts of the country, water conservation does not have an effect on water rates in our area. Michigan is fortunate to have an abundance of water available in the Great

Lakes for use as drinking water. The City of Detroit has designed their water system and rate structure so that customers may use as much water as they need. It is the extra cost of supplying water during peak times that drives water rates higher.

Public water systems are similar to the road system in that a water system must be designed to handle its "rush hour traffic" (5 am to 11 pm). If Macomb Township took part of this traffic (water demand) and moved it to early morning (11 pm to 5 am) when most people are sleeping, Detroit would spend less to provide the same amount of water. This cost saving will help keep water rates lower for all Township customers.

That you may be paying to sprinkle more than just your lawn?

Most residential subdivisions and condominiums in Macomb Township have common areas that are fully landscaped and irrigated with an automatic sprinkler system. If you add up the land area for all of these common areas, you can imagine that there is a significant amount of water being used to irrigate these areas.

If homeowner's associations would have these automatic sprinkler systems set to water between the hours of 11 pm and 5 am, the Township would use even less water during peak demand times. This in turn helps to keep water rates lower for all Township customers, not just the residents of the subdivision or condominium.

Using your sprinklers during the peak hours of 5 am to 11 pm affects water pressure?

Automatic lawn sprinklers are a significant part of the Township's peak water usage between the hours of 5 am and 11 pm. Using your lawn sprinklers between the hours of 5 am to 11 pm decreases the amount of water available for activities such as bathing, cooking and laundry. This decrease in water availability shows itself in the form of low water pressure.

By setting your automatic lawn sprinkler system to operate between the hours of 11 pm and 5 am, you can reduce the Township's overall demand for water during the peak times. This in turn helps to maintain the pressure in the Township's water system throughout the day. Although we don't have control over water usage in our neighboring communities, which also affects the Township's water pressure, Macomb Township residents can do their part to help address pressure problems.

The Best Time of Day to Water Your Lawn

By Joe Knapp

What is the best time of day to water your lawn? This is a very common question that just about everybody with a lawn wants to know. I have heard of and seen many practices regarding this topic, and I have come to the conclusion that many people have it wrong. Even people who have done research and combine the research with their common sense often get it wrong.

Your lawn needs about one inch of water per week. Too much water or too little water is not healthy for your lawn. The best way to accomplish this is with one really thorough soaking at the right time. Watering every day a little bit, or walking around your lawn spraying your hose every day may actually spray your lawn with the required inch per week, but your lawn still most probably will not be getting the required inch per week. This explains why daily watering is pointless. Your lawn does not require that much water anyway. Watering your lawn a thorough inch every day will only be detrimental to your lawn, and spraying it every day a little bit is completely pointless, since it will just evaporate when the sun comes up.

The best time of day to water your lawn is at about three or four in the morning when the water pressure is the highest. This way you will accomplish two vital things:

1. The water will have a chance to sufficiently soak into the topsoil.
2. Whatever water is left over will be evaporated when the sun comes up, thereby not giving the water a chance to create any fungi or molds which come about when water just sits around on the surface of your lawn.

If you have an automatic sprinkler system, it is very easy to set it at the right time for the right amount of water. However, if you have a job which allows you to sleep at night, waking up at three thirty in the morning to water your lawn may not be the best way to keep that job. I would certainly never even consider waking up that early in the morning to water my lawn.

The next best thing which will still accomplish these two vital effects is to water your lawn as early in the morning as possible **BEFORE THE SUN COMES UP**. This way most of the water will still soak into the topsoil, and whatever water is left over will be evaporated as soon as the sun comes out and starts heating things up. This early morning time can also be very challenging, since most of us either need to get ready for work, eat breakfast, drive carpool, or do one of the other million things we all need to do in the morning hours.

If watering your lawn in the early morning hours is not possible, the next best time of day to water your lawn is in the evening after the sun has already cooled down significantly. This will allow the water to soak into the topsoil properly. However, the leftover water will lay around all night long until the sun comes out and evaporates it. This can cause various fungi and molds to grow in your lawn, but it is still better than nothing.

The worst time of day to water you lawn is in the afternoon when the sun is beating down at full strength. The water will evaporate almost as quickly as it lands on your lawn, making this watering completely worthless. I see automatic sprinklers going on in the middle of the day all the time, but let me assure you that this accomplishes nothing unless the sprinklers stay on for hours at a time. Watering your lawn in the afternoon in such a way that will provide an ample amount of water to soak into the topsoil takes significantly more time and water than watering in the early morning, and is therefore almost always completely pointless. For this same reason, walking around with a hose and spraying your lawn is almost basically pointless, since your lawn will not get anything close to the inch of water that it requires. The water will instead evaporate almost instantly.

The best way to figure out if your lawn is getting the required inch per week is to put out a few empty cans next to your garden or lawn and to see if it fills up an inch high of water. If you have a sprinkler system, this is a good way to see how long it takes for the sprinklers to soak your lawn with an inch of water. However long it takes to fill up the cans with an inch of water is a pretty good indicator of how long it takes to soak your lawn with an inch of water.

Water Wisely: The Best Time to Water Your Lawn

Keep that grass green by using your sprinklers at the proper time.

By Patrick St. John

If you were to ask several people how often you should water your lawn, and for how long, you're bound to get many different answers. Chances are one will be right on the money. But which one? There are many theories on proper watering. Some people do it every day, others once a week, or even "whenever I get around to it." How do the experts feel? Here's the scoop, according to those in the know.

First of all, you should forget daily watering for a couple of reasons. It simply isn't necessary, and with many restrictions in place lately regarding "odd and eve day" watering, it's not allowed. Besides, that method isn't exactly fair, since those with odd-numbered addresses get two straight days of watering

when a month contains 31 days. But there's no need to be concerned. Your lawn doesn't need that much water anyway.

Most experts agree that your lawn needs about an inch of water a week be it from rain or your sprinkler. That can be accomplished with one good, thorough soaking instead of daily watering for a few minutes at a time. It's fairly easy to determine how long your sprinkler needs to run to provide an inch. Next time you water, place a couple of coffee cans or other containers in the path of the sprinkler. Note how long it takes to get one inch of water in the containers.

The best time of day to water is during the early morning hours – around 3:00 – when the water pressure is highest. In addition, water will have a chance to soak down into the ground before evaporating, thus providing the most benefit for the lawn. And any water left on the lawn will be evaporated away in a timely matter when daylight arrives.

Mid-afternoon watering is probably the worst time to water, as far as efficient water use is concerned. Too much will evaporate away before it has a chance to soak down. You'll be using a lot of water, but won't be doing your lawn all that much good. Even though it may be very tempting to turn on the sprinkler during one of those scorching days, hold off on it.

Evening watering will permit the water to soak down just fine, but water will remain on the lawn way too long, which can invite fungus and diseases.

If you don't have an in-ground sprinkler system you're not about to get out of bed in the wee hours of the morning to water. I don't blame you, because I won't do that either. In that case, put the water out as early as you can, before the sun starts heating things up. But, with getting ready for work, that's not always the best solution either. So early evening is the next best time. Water may linger on the lawn for a while, but the soaking the grass gets is far better than doing nothing.

Some people will get the hose every so often and walk around the lawn spraying water everywhere. Other than the health benefits of walking, little else is getting accomplished. A few minutes of watering with the hose here and there isn't going to provide anywhere near an inch.

In-ground systems can be easily set for time and duration, so if you're fortunate enough to have one, so much the better. Check your sprinklers often though, to make sure they're properly aligned. When and improperly-adjusted sprinkler springs into action in the middle of the night, anything can happen.

When setting hoses and sprinklers out, make sure you take any wind into consideration. The ideal spot for your sprinkler a few days ago may not be so ideal when it's windy. A sudden gust can put open windows, sidewalks, streets, and parked cars into the sprinkler's new, unintended path.

Proper watering techniques will not only help your lawn, they'll allow you to easily comply with many watering restrictions put in place. And wise water use is something everyone can benefit from.

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