Efficient irrigation for desert-friendly landscapes

This table shows the approximate amount of water different landscaping typically needs. Individual watering times vary based on sprinkler efficiency, soil and weather conditions. To help reduce water use, simply adjust your sprinkler times for turf according to our drought irrigaiton guide.

Drought irrigation guide for turf grass in the Coachella Valley.

(in minutes per day)	Spray	Rotary heads
January	3	7
February	5	13
March	7	18
April	10	22
May	12	27
June	14	30
July	13	30
August	12	27
September	10	22
October	7	14
November	4	10
December	3	6




Irrigation guide for trees and shrubs* in the Coachella Valley

Water needs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
High	45	56	53	59	60	59	59	57	63	52	44	42
Medium	31	35	33	38	39	38	38	37	41	33	28	28
Low	14	21	16	17	18	18	18	17	18	16	14	14

*** Gallons per day for established trees and large shrubs (15-20 feet high and wide)**

Irrigation guide for groundcovers in the Coachella Valley (in gallons per day)

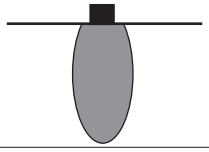
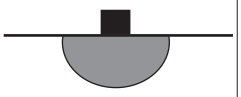
Water needs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
High	2.4	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.8	2.3	2.1
Medium	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	1	1.8	1.6	1.4
Low	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.7

How many days should I water each week?

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	3	4	5	6	7	7	6	5	4	3	2

SOIL INFILTRATION AND WETTING PATTERN

- Maximum infiltration rate indicates how fast water can be absorbed into the soil without runoff.
- Wetting patterns show the relationship between vertical and horizontal movement of water in the soil up to the maximum wetted diameter. Once the maximum wetted diameter is reached, water movement is downward, forming the traditional "carrot," "onion," and "radish" profiles.
- Maximum wetted diameter is the greatest distance water will spread horizontally from an emitter.
- Available Water (AW) is the amount of water that is readily available for use by plants.

Soil Type	Maximum infiltration rate	Wetting Pattern	Maximum Wetted Diameter	Wetted area in square feet	Available Water (AW)
Coarse (sandy loam)	0.72 – 1.25 inches per hour		1.0 – 3.0 pies	3 square feet	1.4 inches per foot
Medium (loam)	0.25 – 0.75 inches per hour		2.0 – 4.0 pies	7 square feet	2.0 inches per foot
Fine (clay loam)	0.13 – 0.25 inches per hour		3.0 – 6.0 pies	16 square feet	2.5 inches per foot

Size of plant canopy		Number of emitters per plant, 100% of area		
Plant Canopy Diameter, feet	Plant canopy Area, square feet	Coarse soil	Medium soil	Fine soil
2	3	2	2	2
3	7	2	2	2
4	13	4	2	2
5	20	6	3	2
6	28	9	4	2
7	38	12	5	2
8	50	16	7	3
9	64	20	9	4
10	79	25	11	5
12	113	36	16	7
14	154	49	22	10
16	201	64	28	13
18	254	81	36	16
20	314	100	44	20