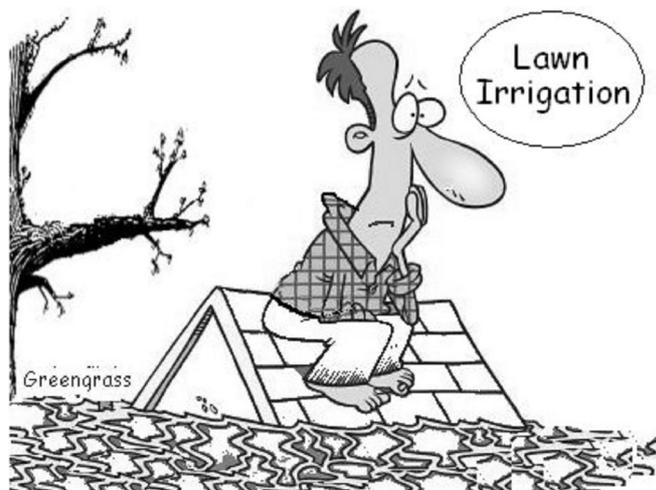


Lawn Irrigation

by Greengrass



MAYBE SET A LITTLE HIGH !!

Irrigation systems for lawns are great. They will water your lawn while you are away from your home and for larger lawns are a really useful time saver. But they are not foolproof.

The whole idea with water conservation (and reduced water bill costs) is that you only need to water your lawn when it needs it, and NOT every day. In the case of Mediterranean (Warm Season Grasses) this is far less often than you may think.

How Often?

There is no simple answer to this question, because with differing water pressures and the many different types of Irrigation Systems there is no cut and dry answer, due to the different amounts or volume of water that may be delivered. However you can solve this problem very easily yourself with an ordinary screwdriver. An hour or so after you irrigate your lawn push the screwdriver into the lawn. It should penetrate about 4 - 6 inches. Remove it and obviously the end of the screwdriver will be damp. Repeat this the next day, and the next, until the end of screwdriver is no longer damp. That's the time to water your lawn again. It's amazing how simple this is and yet so many people have their irrigation set to every day for ½ hour or so.

How Much or How Long?

Again, because of differing water pressures, and different systems it's impossible to say. But the plastic bottle trick will give you a good indication. Cut the bottom off a plastic water bottle and place on your lawn. Measure the amount of water in the bottle after your irrigation system has finished, it should be about ½ to ¾ inch. Watering more, and less frequently helps the grass roots to go deep and survive the heat of the summer. Watering little and frequently is counter productive, it keeps the roots at the surface and only helps the weeds to grow.

When to Water?

The best time to water is early in the morning. About an hour or so before sunrise. This means that the grass has time to absorb the water before the sun gets too strong. Watering at night is risky. It can encourage fungus problems, as the grass is sitting in humid conditions all through the night. This is especially a problem with certain types of grasses and in Southern Spain where night temperatures are quite high.

If you have a problem with watering your lawn, talk to a lawn specialist. It will save you money in the long term. You can also see a wide selection of different grass types on our stand at the Mamut, Jalon every Saturday (10.00 - 5.00).

*For FREE advice tel: 676 863 778 or see our website www.lawnsinspain.com
(working together for a greener lawn)*