

Weather Based Landscape Irrigation

*Utilizing ET Weather Data To Schedule Run Times On
Your Inground Irrigation System*

Even if you don't have the funds to install an ET weather based controller on your home irrigation system, you can utilize ET weather data to more efficiently water your home landscape. Here's how.

Determine Your Sprinkler Precipitation or Application Rate

The first step is to determine how much water your irrigation system applies. To do this simply place empty tuna or cat food cans around your yard. Turn your irrigation system on manually to run for 15 minutes on each zone. Once complete, use a ruler to measure the amount of water in each of the cans. Take the amount of water in the can and divide it by 15. Take that number and multiply it by 4 to get your hourly application rate. Simple right!

Now that you figured out your application rate keep that number handy. It will be important.

Where to Find ET Data

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service has an easy to use Web site that collects ET data for you. Simply go to <http://texaset.tamu.edu>

When you arrive at the homepage select the station/city closest to you to obtain your local ET and weather data.

1. Select the 7 day summary, as most north Texans only need to water their home landscape once a week.
2. Select home watering
3. Input the sunlight exposure for your yard (full sun, part shade, full shade)
4. Select your turf (grass) species
5. Input the effective rainfall from the weather data chart above
6. Input your sprinkler application rate that you have already calculated, remember the tuna cans
7. And finally hit the calculate button.

This will tell you how long you will need to set your irrigation system to run on your watering day. Its that easy!

<http://dallas.tamu.edu>