

July 15 2026



Irrigation
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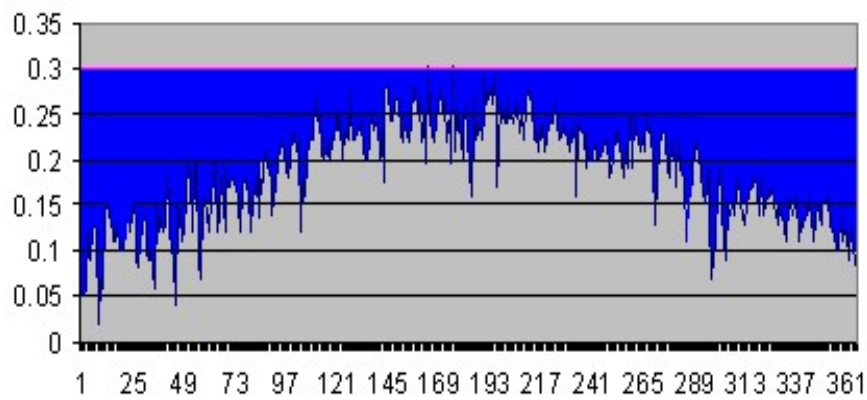
Scott Duncan

Is Your Irrigation System Wasting Water and Dollars??

You could be wasting water every time you run your sprinkler system. According to the EPA's Water Sense Program, as much as 50 percent of water use in commercial and residential systems is wasted due to evaporation, wind, improper system design or overwatering. How can you tell how your system is doing? First you need to know how much you actually used. If you don't have a dedicated water meter you can estimate it by taking the average domestic use when your system was not operating & subtracted this number from your water meter readings when your system was operational.

Once you have usage numbers, compare your usage to what your landscape actually required. Actual demand numbers on a monthly & even daily basis can be quantified by using historical weather conditions data including effective rainfall. A water management professional who specializes in landscape irrigation can help you determine your actual demand & if you wasted water. Often excess water is applied in the spring & fall because systems are programmed when started up in the spring with a midseason program & not adjusted to meet actual demand conditions (see graph below).

Set & Forget (Figure 1 / Annual ET demand vs. Usage)



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Now that you have defined the problem, what is the specific solution for your property? It could be related to your system design & how well it is being maintained. An audit of your system by a certified auditor can identify problems with your system & how to correct them. Large amounts of water can be wasted when a system is not designed properly or is not functioning as it should (i.e. leaks, stuck zone valves or improper sprinkler spacing).

Often, the main issue is how it is programmed & the fact that timely adjustment are not being made to meet actual demand conditions. A solutions could be a “SMART” controller that makes real time program adjustments & allows remote access for system monitoring & management. There are many “SMART” controllers on the market today. Contact a water management professional who can help you determine if you are wasting water as well as defining what steps to take to implement a plan specific to your property.