

## Checklist for a Healthy Landscape



The following maintenance tips will help you water and care for your landscape with efficient water usage in mind.

- ❑ Avoid watering on windy days or midday when evaporation is high. We suggest you water between 3 and 8 am.
- ❑ Lawn and shrub areas on a slope or in clay soil require a special irrigation technique called *repeat cycles, multiple starts, or pulse irrigating*. This means taking your daily run time and dividing it into two or more cycles. This allows the water to soak into the soil, instead of running off. For example, if you normally water for 10 minutes a night you can run the station for 5 minutes two times a night with at least an hour in-between. Repeat cycle or pulse irrigation is easiest with an automatic timer.
- ❑ Install check valves in sprinkler heads that leak when the system is off. This is especially necessary for sites that are on a slope.
- ❑ Inspect the irrigation equipment on a regular basis. Broken heads and clogged nozzles should be repaired or replaced as soon as possible.
- ❑ Lawn areas should be aerated regularly to reduce soil compaction. Aerating allows air, water, and fertilizer to get to the roots, which makes a healthy lawn. You can rent a power aerator at local rental yards.
- ❑ Remove thatch build-up on the lawn. This will allow water and nutrients to reach the roots without running off. Fall is the best time to dethatch. You can rent a power dethatcher at local rental yards.
- ❑ Adjust your lawnmower to the proper mowing height.  
Suggested heights:  
Tall Fescue 2-1/2"-3"    Blue Grass 1-1/2"-3"
- ❑ Longer grass shades the soil, encourages deeper roots and saves water. As a standard, you should never cut off more than 1/3 of the blade of grass.



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