



# Most People Irrigate Too Frequently

Automatically irrigating three days per week is one of the most common and wasteful practices that leads to unnecessary, high water bills. This is especially true during the cool, shorter days of Spring and Fall, and when irrigating established shrubs.

Although the soil surface may be dry at times, at three to ten inches of soil depth there is often plenty of soil moisture available to our landscape plants, even 10 to 15 days past a previous irrigation or rainfall event. When there are periodic rain events to replenish the available water in the soil, irrigation can be delayed indefinitely.

The following table highlights the monthly watering frequency estimated for established shrubs in our sandy soils during clear weather. Following these recommended intervals between irrigation events can save you thousands of gallons of water each season.

## Suggested Watering Frequency For Shrubs

Most Frequent Irrigation Occurs in June

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
▪ Frequency (Every (x) Days)	13	11	6	4	4	4	4	5	6	7	11	13
▪ Irrigation Days/Month	2	3	5	7	8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
▪ Days Between Irrigations Events	12	10	5	3	3	3	3	4	5	6	10	12

The proper watering duration and frequency is unique to each site and irrigation system. To obtain a suggested irrigation schedule for your location, site exposure, and type of irrigation equipment, contact our Water Conservation Department staff at (831) 384-6131 or [conservation@mcwd.org](mailto:conservation@mcwd.org).



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