

CONSERVATION Connection News

FALL BACK... IT'S FOR RUNTIMES TOO

Fall brings us to the end of the summer sprint, if the lawn isn't green by now it's too late, better luck next year. With the cooler temperatures comes the possibility of overnight freezes. Freezing temps become problematic if we are running late night or early morning schedules and haven't reduced runtimes to a fall schedule. Runoff that escapes the landscape and makes it to the street or sidewalk is a big deal, not only because it is a waste of water, it also increases the possibility of personal injury or vehicular damage due to the icy conditions. Keep our streets safe this fall by adjusting your timers and checking your sprinklers.

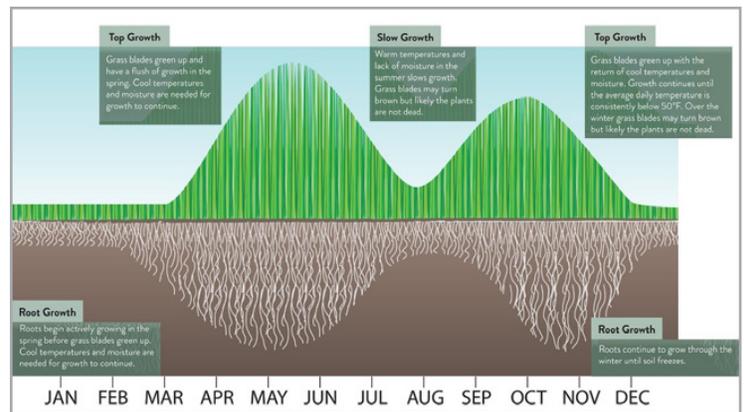
After our lawns have been on life support for a few months, our decreasing

September temperatures start moving into the ideal ranges (60-75 deg) for cool season turf growth. You may notice how easily your cool season grass greens up in the spring and fall seasons. One mistake we may make this time of year is assuming that given this state of growth, we should be applying more water. In fact, applying adequate water this time of year means applying only 50 % of what we were applying in July and August. Making these adjustments can be an easy task for your irrigators if you utilize the Seasonal Adjust %

It's blowout season again!

This issue includes Eight Great Tips make your winterization rush a success. (see back)

COOL SEASON TURF CALENDAR



turf.cals.cornell.edu

feature on your controller. If you are applying a fall slow release fertilizer, now is a good time, give a manual cycle but don't add a second start time or extra program that's easy to forget about. The

goal is to prevent wasted water by making simple seasonal adjustments and avoid running our peak season schedule in September.



WINTERIZATION

Prior to getting that long winters rest that you're probably looking forward to, there's one last push to finish the season, blowouts. It is always recommended that sprinkler systems be winterized in areas where the frost line can reach to or below the underground pipes.

While a rebellious few will claim they, "haven't winterized their system in 40 years", this is not advisable. While not winterizing a system can be detrimental to the sprinklers, just as much damage can be done by improperly winterizing a system. Before you go out this year to brave the cold air and search for buried valve boxes, review these winterization tips to make sure your blowouts are completed successfully.



1. When scheduling new customers ask them to locate or expose valve boxes prior to your arrival date.
2. Flow sensors can be damaged by compressed air - remove and close line before blowing out system.
3. To prevent risk of injury, never stand or lean over the valves or quick coupler connection when compressor is running.
4. On mainlines 2" and below, do not exceed 80 psi. Volume of air is more important than pressure, and you do not want to exceed the max psi rating of the weakest sprinkler component (e.g. 80psi max for swing pipe and 50 psi max for compression drip tubing).
5. Do not ever blow compressed air through a backflow assembly; this can damage the internal components causing failure of the backflow. Make sure blowout connection is downstream of the backflow device, if not offer to repair. Blowouts through the wrong backflow can potentially cause damage to City of Bend Infrastructure.
6. If no blowout connection is available, offer to install one.
7. When activating valves with the controller, set multiple short runtimes of 1 min rather than one long runtime.
8. Once the system has been blown out leave the downstream ball valve on the backflow open a ¼ turn to allow any water left around the ball valve to escape.

Upcoming Workshops

Look for new workshops this winter season. As always CEU's will be available for those who need them and all workshops are FREE. Stay tuned to our website at WaterWisetips.org for dates.



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