

## WATERING GUIDELINES FOR INDIO Winter / Spring

Esta guía está disponible en español



Update your watering schedule monthly—you could save up to 30% on your water bill!

**Disclaimer:** These irrigation schedules are only guidelines. These schedules are generic and do not take into account YOUR specific plants' needs or YOUR specific site conditions.

No one can tell you exactly how much water to apply without an in-person inspection of your plants and irrigation system.

## SMART CONTROLLERS

"Smart" controllers use weather information to make daily adjustments to your watering schedule. They are the most accurate, least wasteful way to apply water.

We strongly recommend purchasing and installing a smart controller. If you are upgrading from an older controller, Indio Water Authority will provide a rebate of up to \$750. You can find more information about this rebate at [IndioWater.org](http://IndioWater.org).

Some smart controllers ask for information about your plants and your sprinklers, just like in this guide. Others expect you to know how much water you need to apply in July, and then they use weather information to reduce the watering times throughout the rest of the year.

Some smart controllers also have a rain sensor, which when sufficiently wet from rain will turn off your sprinklers for 48 hours.

If you need help selecting or programming a smart controller, please call Indio Water Authority customer service at 760-391-4038 or go online: [IndioWater.org](http://IndioWater.org).

## THE RIGHT WATERING SCHEDULE

Many factors go into a great watering schedule. To make it simpler, this schedule focuses on two—the kind of plants you are watering and the kind of sprinklers you have.

If you update your sprinkler controller each month with the right schedule for your plants and sprinklers, you can reduce both your water bill and water waste.

Does your gardener program your controller? Give him or her a brochure for the appropriate month so your controller will always be programmed with the correct schedule.

### 1 Identify Your Sprinklers

Don't worry about determining the exact sprinklers you're using—you only need to know which kind you have: Spray, Rotary, Rotor, Drip, Bubblers.

Note: To find out what you have, turn on each sprinkler zone and observe them.

### 2 Identify Your Plants

Don't worry about finding out exactly what kind of plant you have, try to pick the right group from the selections available.

Note: If you have more than one kind of plant on your zone, choose the one that needs the most water from this list.

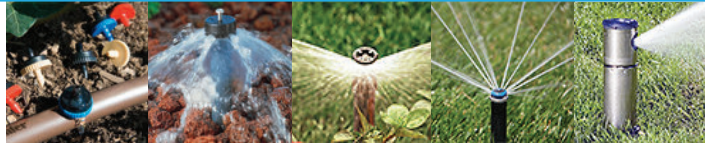
Important: If you have trees planted in a grass lawn, use the schedule for grass, not for trees.

## NEED HELP?

Keep reading for more information about identifying your plants and sprinklers.

### DECEMBER/JANUARY

### Minutes per Week



TYPE OF PLANT	DRIP	BUBBLER	SPRAY	ROTARY	ROTOR
GRASS	15	n/a	14	45	65
LOW WATER	10	2-3	7	20	30
MEDIUM WATER	15	4	11	35-40	50
HIGH WATER	20	5-6	15	50-55	75
CACTUS & SUCCULENTS	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
CITRUS & VEGGIES	30	7-9	20	75	105

### HOW TO USE THIS SCHEDULE

This schedule is based on assumptions and generalizations. It excludes important factors like soil type and microclimate (sunny vs shady areas).

These are ranges for you to aim for and to make decisions about.

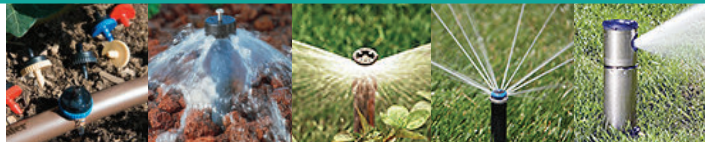
*The low end of each range* assumes your system is in optimal condition. If it is newly installed or recently tuned up, use this end of the range.

*The high end of each range* assumes your system is in average condition. If it's been a while since you did any work on your system, use this end of the range.

**IMPORTANT:** If you currently water more than the high end of the range, slowly move your plants to this schedule

### FEBRUARY

### Minutes per Week



TYPE OF PLANT	DRIP	BUBBLER	SPRAY	ROTARY	ROTOR
GRASS	30	n/a	25	80-95	115-125
LOW WATER	15	4-5	12-14	40-45	60-65
MEDIUM WATER	25	7-9	20	65-75	100-105
HIGH WATER	40	9-12	30	90-110	135-150
CACTUS & SUCCULENTS	5	1-2	4-5	15	n/a
CITRUS & VEGGIES	45-60	14-17	45	130-150	195-215

### When To Add More Time

- If you live in a very windy area
- Your system is poorly maintained or has very high pressure (55+ psi)
- You have newly-installed plants that are not yet established
- If your plants are showing signs of water stress

### MARCH

### Minutes per Week



TYPE OF PLANT	DRIP	BUBBLER	SPRAY	ROTARY	ROTOR
GRASS	45	n/a	35-40	120-140	175-190
LOW WATER	25	6-8	20	60-70	85-95
MEDIUM WATER	35-45	10-13	30-35	100-115	145-160
HIGH WATER	50-60	14-18	40-45	140-160	200-220
CACTUS & SUCCULENTS	10	2-3	6-7	20	n/a
CITRUS & VEGGIES	70-90	20-25	60-70	200-230	290-315

### When To Subtract Time

- For mature desert-adapted trees
- In very shady areas
- If you currently water less than the low end of the range and your plants are happy—keep up the good work!



# IDENTIFYING YOUR PLANTS: COMMON PLANTS IN COACHELLA VALLEY

## Low Water Needs

Desert-adapted plants tend to have smaller leaves, which are often needle like or waxy, and frequently grayish in color.

## Medium Water Needs

Plants that come from other regions need more water than our desert-friendly choices.

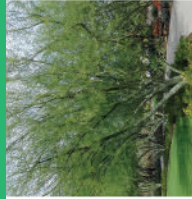
## High Water Needs

Plants that come from tropical regions in South America and Asia, or those bearing fruit, often require a great deal of water.

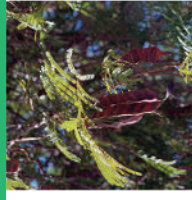
### Trees



Acacia species

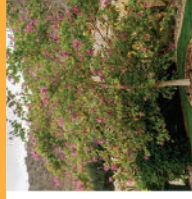


Palo Verde  
*Parkinsonia* species

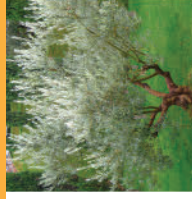


Mesquite  
*Prosopis* species

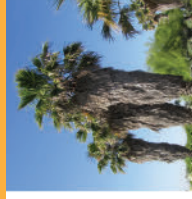
### Trees



Orchid Tree  
*Bauhinia* species

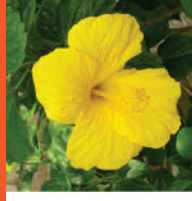


Olive Tree  
*Olea europaea*



Fan Palm  
*Washingtonia* species

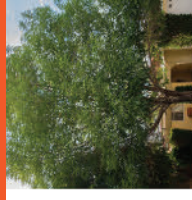
### Trees & Shrubs



Hibiscus species



Pink Powder Puff  
*Calliandra haematocephala*



Ash Tree  
*Fraxinus udhei*

### Shrubs



Texas Ranger  
*Leucophyllum* species

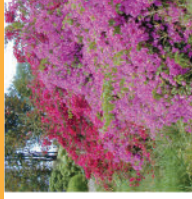


Red Yucca  
*Hesperaloe parviflora*

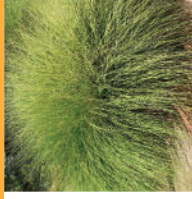


Brittlebush  
*Encelia farinosa*

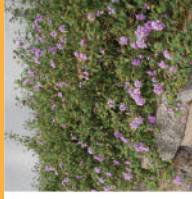
### Shrubs



Bougainvillea



Deer Grass  
*Muhlenbergia* species



Lantana  
*Lantana* species

### Annuals



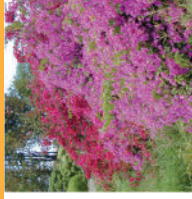
Petunias



Chrysanthemum



Geraniums



Snapdragons

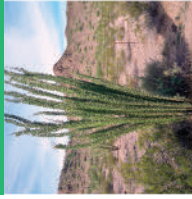


Zinnia



Pansy

### Cactus & Succulents



Ocotillo  
*Fouquieria splendens*

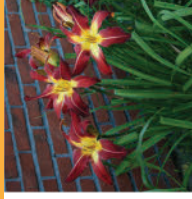


Agave species



Prickly Pear  
*Opuntia* species

### Perennials



Daylily  
*Hemerocallis* species



Gazania species



Lily of the Nile  
*Agapanthus orientalis*

### Fruit Trees & Vegetables



Citrus  
Orange, Lemon



Tomato



Lettuces



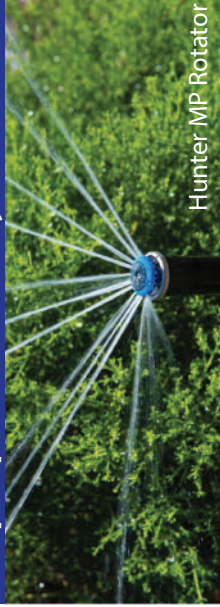
## IDENTIFYING YOUR SPRINKLERS

### Pop-up With Spray Nozzles



Rain Bird VAN

### Pop-up With Rotary Nozzles



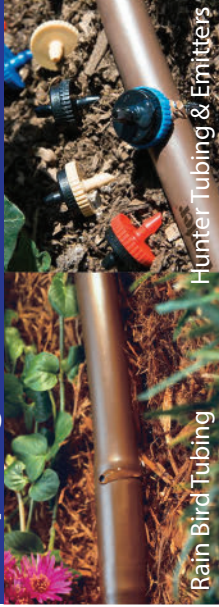
Hunter MP Rotator

### Rotors



Hunter PGP

### Drip Irrigation



Rain Bird Tubing

Hunter Tubing & Emitters

### Bubblers



ORBIT Bubbler

Rain Bird Bubbler

## ABOUT YOUR WATER BILL

Your water bill consists of different parts. Some of these costs are fixed, but some of your bill is based on your actual water usage.

If you have a residential account, your water bill is based on your individual water budget. Part of this water budget is based on the size of your property and the actual weather which occurs during the billing period.

The schedules in this guide help you keep in touch with the monthly weather changes so your usage more closely tracks your water budget. The more you use, the more you pay for what you use.

Updating your controller might seem like a chore, or you may find it difficult, but you can save money and water by doing so.

## Residential Consumption Rates

**Tier 1 (Efficient Use).** This is your indoor water budget. If you have additional people living in your home, you can get this budget increased. Please call customer service at 760-391-4038 and ask for a variance. In 2017, this tier costs \$0.97 per 748 gallons. In 2018 it will be \$1.05.

**Tier 2 (Efficient Use).** This is your outdoor water budget. In 2017, this tier costs \$1.46 per 748 gallons. In 2018 it will be \$1.58.

**Tier 3 (Inefficient Use), Tier 4 (Excessive Use), Tier 5 (Wasteful Use).** If you are billed for water use in these tiers, you are likely overwatering or possibly have a leak that needs repair.

Tier 3 2017	\$1.95	Tier 3 2018	\$2.11
Tier 4 2017	\$2.92	Tier 4 2018	\$3.16
Tier 5 2017	\$3.89	Tier 5 2018	\$4.20

## MORE WAYS TO SAVE WATER

### Don't Create Runoff

Watering too long creates runoff—a major cause of water waste.

The best way to know when runoff starts at your home is to use a stopwatch. Turn on each zone on your controller and run it until you see water running off into the street or other hard surfaces like sidewalks and patios.

If you need to water more minutes than it takes until runoff occurs, use multiple start times and wait 30 minutes between cycles.

## What The Plants Like

Plants need water at different times depending on their root depth. We simplify this into the following rules of thumb:

- Water trees infrequently and deeply;
- Water grass, groundcovers, and vegetables frequently and for short periods;
- Water shrubs and annuals somewhere in between.
- Water cactus and succulents infrequently and not at all when it rains.