

5 Tips for Spring Watering of Trees & Shrubs



Spring is just around the corner and it's time to think about your irrigation system. When you think about irrigating your plants and trees, what do you think about?

- Using as little water as possible?
- Having the best looking plants you can have?
- Wondering where to begin?

In an ideal world, you would have all your groundcover plants on one irrigation station and being watered together, your shrubs on one irrigation station, and your trees on their own irrigation system. But, we don't live in an ideal world. More often than not, you have all your front yard plants on one irrigation station and your backyard plants on another station. And, you might have flower beds on a separate irrigation station if you're lucky.

What does that mean for you? It means that you're either overwatering your groundcovers and possibly your shrubs or you're underwatering your trees. It ends up being a balancing act to get your irrigation watering right.

Here are five tips for getting it close to being good.

1. Use different emitter sizes for different types of plant material in a drip irrigation system. Emitters come gallons per hour sizes. Lower gallons per hour for less watering to a plant.
2. Mature trees often get the majority of their water from surrounding plants because their growing roots are at the edge of the tree canopy. So, don't water directly next to the tree trunk. It does more damage than good.
3. Make sure that you inspect your irrigation system for leaks and to optimize the system before Spring. While plants are dormant, you can get a better look under them and check for leaks.
4. Adjust your irrigation watering times and length of watering as the temperature rises.
5. Look to ensure that your drip irrigation poly line is buried underground. That helps keep animals from chewing on the line and creating holes that cause leaks.

It's also a good idea to keep an eye on your water bills and look for spikes in water usage. That can mean that you have a problem with your irrigation system or with your home's water. It's better to find out as quickly as possible before you get a huge water bill. Here's a good resource from the University of Arizona about [Watering Trees and Shrubs](#).